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125th ANNIVERSARY CELE-
BRATION COMMITTEE

SIX SCORE AND FIVE

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SIX SCORE
AND
FIVE



A Brief But Exciting
History of - - -
FARMER CITY
on its
125th Anniversary

As Farmer City Celebrates Its

125th ANNIVERSARY ...

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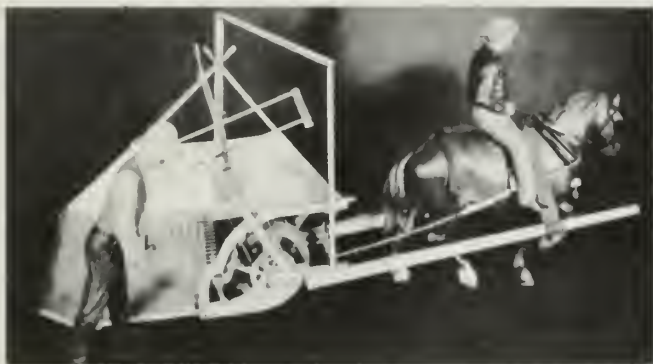
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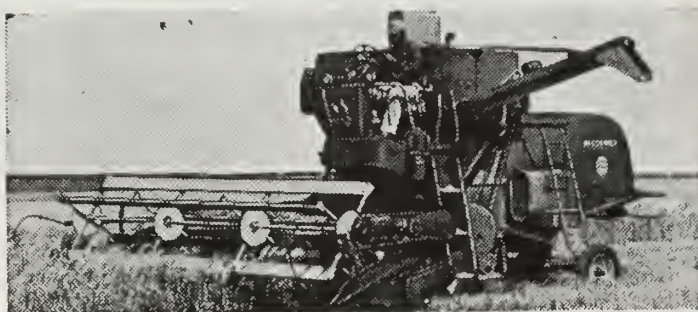
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McCORMICK PROGRESS AND LEADERSHIP IN THE FARM EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY SPANS 131 YEARS...
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR, AND APPRECIATE, THE PART FARMERS AND CITIZENS OF THE FARMER CITY AREA HAVE PLAYED IN THIS PROGRESS DURING THEIR 125 YEARS...

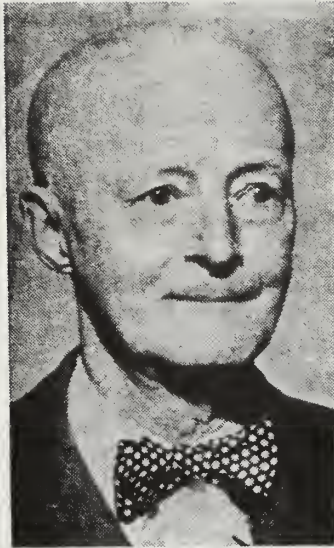


CONGRATULATIONS



Geo. H. Dunn

FARMER CITY, ILL.



C. CLIVE BURFORD

In Appreciation

In commemorating the founding of Farmer City, it is fitting to pay tribute to the late C. C. Burford for the contributions he made of historical value. He was born and reared in Farmer City, was ever loyal and enthusiastic in praising his "Old Home Town". His articles which appeared in the Farmer City Journal for the past 25 years, replete with history of the town from its very beginning in 1837, are invaluable. Without them, it would have been impossible to provide the records in this brochure. Clive Burford spent countless hours and energy in research and loved doing it.

As this is compiled to be a souvenir booklet, we could not hope to cover and include all the historical events to date. We cannot name all the individuals who have been outstanding in their service to this community.

We owe thanks to all the people who did research for the organizations. Gratitude is also due to the many people who gave us their time in interviews and for other necessary information.

LUCY A. WATSON and OSEE L. STENSEL
Co-chairmen, Historical Committee

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JUNE 7 thru JUNE 10, 1962

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"JOURNEY THROUGH OUR YEARS" is based on an authentic historical line. The chronology of characters, authenticity and costumes, and locales in some instances, have been altered necessarily to meet the demands of staging and for dramatic effect.

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GENERAL ADMISSION.....	\$1.50
CHAIR SEATS.....	\$2.00
CHILDREN: General Admission.....	75c
Chair Seats.....	\$1.25

Tickets available at the Anniversary Headquarters, Main and Green, Farmer City, Illinois. Office open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily. Tickets available nights of performance at Fairgrounds at 7 P.M.

The 125th Anniversary Committee

Farmer City's 125th anniversary celebration is as much a community affair as any volunteer undertaking can be. In one manner or another, almost every resident of the city, and a number from outside the immediate area, have participated in the preparation for the celebration.



CLARENCE E. SIMPSON

Spectacle ticket — Edwin Eppstein and Jones, advance sale. Richard Collier, cashier and gates.

Spectacle — Mrs. John Overton, scenario and title; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wright Sr., properties; Copeland and Simpson, grounds; Mrs. Joe Trenkle and Mrs. Joe Eubank, cast; Copeland, construction, and Mrs. Roy Ratcliffe, costume and make-up.

Publicity — Fred Graff, press release; James E. Tobin, radio, TV and special projects, and Robert Gammage, speakers.

Hospitality — Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberson, dignitaries and guests, and O. W. Reinke, traffic and safety.

Special events — Jesse S. Hammer, merchants promotion; Willard Thomas, parade, and Mrs. Clarence Swallow, historical windows.

Active both in personal contribution and in moral support are members of the city administration under Mayor H. R. Hester. In addition to Dr. Hester, there are Councilmen Tom McConkey, C. B. Potts, Roy Ratcliffe, Floyd King, George Stewart and Gene Buchanan; John H. Collier, clerk; E. R. Rinehart, treasurer, and O. A. Peithman, attorney.

As in any such event, there is a guiding group to channel the activity and do as much as they can to ensure the unity of action for ultimate success.

This group has been known as the 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Inc. Here are some of the people making up the committee.

Forming the executive committee is Clarence E. Simpson, general chairman; Mrs. Minnie Belle Wells, secretary, Mrs. John Holman, headquarters chairman, and Charles L. Russell, treasurer. Incorporating officers include Dr. H. R. Hester, Richard Blair and Simpson.

Division chairmen include Mrs. Joe Murphey, Leon Mason and Mrs. Holman, participation; Marshall Jones, spectacle ticket; Roy Copeland, special events; Mrs. Ruth Pace, spectacle; Dr. Hester, hospitality, and Russell, revenue and publicity.

Special committee chairmen include Robert Smith, insurance; Don Davis, decorating, and C. A. Roberts, E. R. Rinehart and Russell, operating capital.

Committee chairmen, by divisions, include:

Revenue — Lucy A. Watson and Osee L. Stensel, historical booklet; Mrs. Carrie Call, novelties, and Larry King, advertising.

Participation — Claude Walker, Brothers of the Brush; Carrol B. Potts, promenade and caravan; Mrs. H. R. Hester, Celebration Bellese; Mrs. Richard Young, sunbonnet, dresses, hats and ties, and Mrs. William Leding and Warren Calhoun kangaroo court.



DR. H. R. HESTER



FARMER CITY'S GREAT FIRE IN AUGUST, 1879

SIX SCORE and Five Farmer City's 125th Anniversary 1837 - 1962

A century and a quarter ago the fertile lands surrounding the now thriving town of Farmer City were unbroken wilderness, having been inhabited only by the Kickapoo Indians.

Dennis Hurley is credited with being the first permanent white settler in 1830, in what is presently known as Santa Anna Township, but at that time was called Hurley's Grove. Richard Kirby came at the same time as Dennis Hurley and built the second log cabin. Nathan Clearwater arrived in the fall of 1832 and recorded the first tract of land in this township. Five westward bound explorers found John Danner and family living in an abandoned wigwam, located approximately where the D. A. Frederickson resident now stands. Danner was not impressed with the idea of being permanently located in this unimproved land and soon began a westward trek.

Catherine Hurley Swigart, one of Dennis Hurley's 12 children was the first white child born in Santa Anna Township, July 16, 1832. Many de-

scendants of Dennis Hurley are present residents in this vicinity.

In 1833, other pioneers who chose this site for permanent homes were, with their families, Henry Huddleston, from Indiana, and Richard D. Webb, from Kentucky. The latter acquired the original 400-acre claim of John Danner. By 1835 the following newcomers, William Y. McCord, Rueben Clearwater, James McCord, Preston Webb, John Donner, John E. French and Epama Covey, had also recorded claims.

April 9, 1835, was the date of a severe, cold wave that brought a heavy freeze. A traveler became separated by high waters from a westward bound wagon train, fell from the ox he was riding and perished. When he was discovered by the hardy pioneers, he was given a Christian burial in a coffin fashioned by Richard D. Webb, whose trade was that of wheelwright.

One of the most colorful of the early settlers was the Rev. Paxton Cumming who was not only

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a devoted preacher of the Gospel but he was a skillful man in the community as well for he was a blacksmith. He died in 1839, being the first person buried in what is now Camp Grove Cemetery.

By 1837, there were 19 families with permanent homes in Hurley's Grove. January 27, 1837, is an important date for everyone to remember who has had the good fortune to live in Farmer City, for on that date Squire Hiram Buck of LeRoy, a surveyor, traced the outline of a new town which was named Mount Pleasant.

Nathan Clearwater erected the first house on the town site. The first store was built by William H. McFall. John Smith of Virginia was the first innkeeper.

In 1853, when a man wanted to take his family from their home in Virginia to establish a new one in the West (in Illinois) they did not make the trip in a "station" wagon, but a "covered" wagon. So it was with Hiram and Grace Murphey. The passengers numbered 10. Seven were Murphey children, the 10th rider was "Aunt Sarah", a colored mammy. The Murphey family was opposed to slavery which was one reason for moving to a state where it was not practiced. Although "Aunt Sarah"

was employed by Hiram Murphey she was hardly considered a slave. She was offered her freedom and if she wished could remain with others of her race in Virginia. She was very prompt with her reply, "Ah gwine with yo'all, Ah kaint leave these dear chillun." She remained with the family until her death and was given a Christian burial in the Farmer City Cemetery.

Frances Murphey married George Page in 1867. Until her death at the age of 98, she contributed much to the history of Farmer City, and was ever lovingly called "Aunt Fanny" by her legion of friends. One event which she cherished occurred in 1860 when she with 15 young girls formed a welcome committee to greet the Republican presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln, at the Illinois Central Railroad Station in Clinton, and he graciously shook hands with all.

At an earlier date, when Lincoln was practicing law and riding circuit, he stopped overnight at the old Mount Pleasant Hotel. A young lad, William Murphey, employed as a "bell hop" by John Smith, felt highly honored when Abe Lincoln was elected President of the United States, that he had once polished his boots.

1839 - THE TOWN STARTS TO GROW

In 1839, the first voting precinct was laid off. Twenty-four votes were polled at the first election. In the same year the first mail was brought into Mount Pleasant, but there could be no postoffice established, for, alas, there was already a Mount Pleasant Postoffice in Illinois. Consequently the name of Santa Anna was adopted and Uncle Sam's mail sacks met at Santa Anna Postoffice; thus, John Smith's Hotel became a tavern of importance.

Santa Anna had 14 blocks of 12 lots each with four partial blocks in the center of the town for a square or park. The streets were 49½ feet wide, except Main Street which was 66 feet in width. The town grew to reach the railroads. At the time the railroads were being built, in 1869, a meeting of citizens was called at the Stone Hotel, situated on the west end of the lot where the Jackson Building now stands. The purpose of the meeting was to choose a name for our growing city in place

of "Mount Pleasant". Quite a number of names were suggested but none seemed to have the approval of the majority, until someone spoke up and said, "The majority of the people here tonight are farmers and the room is heated with burning corn (as corn was cheaper than coal), fuel which is produced by the farmers. Mr. Chairman, I move that we change the name of Mount Pleasant to Farmer City." The motion was offered, seconded and carried.

It was Jacob Swigart, a member of the State Legislature, who introduced a bill into the Assembly in 1869 approving the change of the town name to "Farmer City". No history of Farmer City would be complete without paying tribute to Jacob and Rebecca Swigart, who with their seven children and their descendants have contributed much to the community's welfare through the years.



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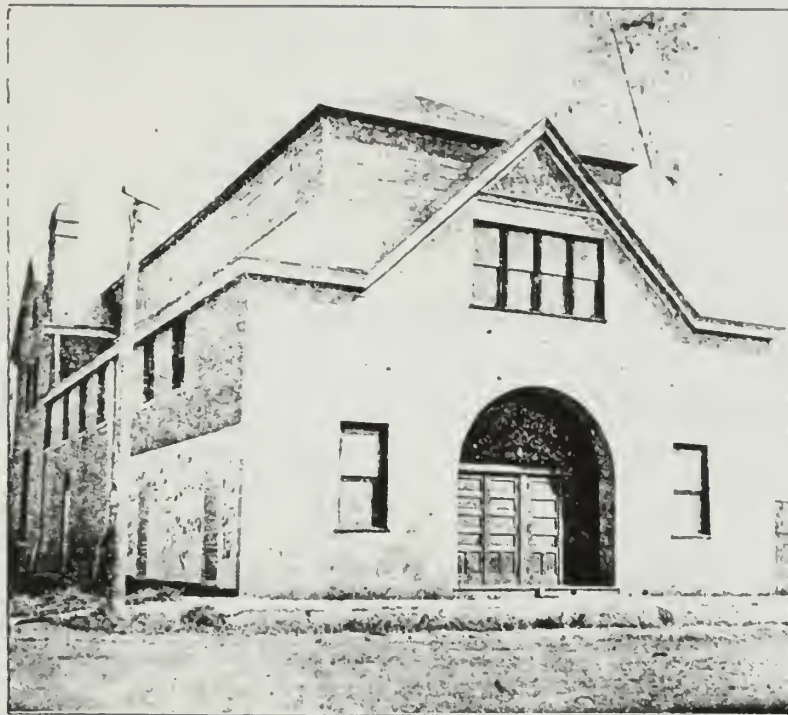
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FARMER CITY, ILL.

ENTERTAINMENT THROUGH THE YEARS



ONE OF FARMER CITY'S EARLY OPERA HOUSES

PLEASURES OF PIONEER DAYS

Although the pioneers, and the generation which closely followed them, did work hard and lived under conditions which most of us today would deem impossible, unsanitary, and thoroughly disagreeable, we should not waste sympathy on them for they did have their pleasures and their fun. The churches not only provided worship centers, but brought folks together for friendly visits after the services. Some of the first forms of community entertainment were quilting, spelling bees and barn raisings. Neighbors would labor for many days erecting a barn on some one's farm; then would come the celebration, with lively music, and old fashioned square dancing. The pioneers and their children realized great fun with their horses for the horse was the focal point of the old time farm life. Driving a good horse before admiring eyes brought pride to the driver.

In the late 1800's, it should be noted, that the common practice of having the old-time Christmas trees in the churches was a favorite form of community entertainment. Presents by the wagon load were taken to the churches. Names of folks from the wiggling red-headed boy on the front seat to the sedate, white-haired grandma were called (perhaps bellowed out) by Santa Claus. It was a great lark for the wags about town to place absurd and ridiculous articles on the tree for some prominent citizens.

The old-time Decoration Days, with the Woman's Relief Corps in charge, were elaborate ceremonies in observance for the occasion. A long parade formed on the square led by a band or "Uncle Leonard" Chase and Lem Ennis' Fife and Drum Corps and two mounted Marshals of the Day. Following, on foot were the Grand Army of the Re-

public, Woman's Relief Corps and children by the hundred, each carrying bouquets or wreaths to place on soldiers' graves after the march to the City Cemetery. Best of all, the Decoration Day Memorial parade still marches as in days of yore, but the American Legion has taken the place of the Grand Army of the Republic.

FOURTH OF JULY

The rousing celebrations of Fourth of July at Owens' Grove were never-to-be-forgotten events. They consisted of long, but stirring, orations by a prominent officeholder or officeseeker. Fire crackers were thrown with devilish glee, which caused much fear of having a runaway horse. Picnics, of course, were always a "must" at Owens' Grove. At night, the festivities reached the height of their glory at the display of fireworks. The Fourth usually ended with a show at the Opera House and a dance for the young people.

BEAN'S OPERA HOUSE

A Two-Story Brick Building of the 1870's and 1880's

Bean's Opera House occupied the upper floor of a building located at the southeast corner of Main and Water Streets. The ticket office was at the top of an inside flight of stairs descending from Water Street.

There were numerous political rallies held in the old opera house and also road shows. (Mrs. Emma Hirst was quoted as remembering the terror of the whipping of poor Tom . . . in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was playing there . . . to a sobbing audience). Of course, the commencement exercises and home talent affairs made good use of the building. Also some people have recalled roller skating and dancing there to. The fire which destroyed this landmark occurred in 1891.

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The Farmer City Journal **The Dewitt County Observer**

PUBLISHING --!-- COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Clinton, Ill.

Farmer City, Ill.

THE COLUMBIAN OPERA HOUSE

The fact that our Columbian Opera House was named in honor of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, held in 1893, would indicate that 1893 was the date for the opening of "The fine new play-house" in Farmer City. The grand opening of Young's Columbian Opera House was one of the big nights in the social history of Farmer City. Little Miss Marce (spelled Marce in those days), the talented and pretty daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Young, gave the opening verses of dedication on opening night. She was beautifully attired in pink silk, with hose to watch and she completely charmed the audience. Her smaller sister, Atha, was an attractive little flower girl. The above description is of course, that of the late Marie Nichols, beloved piano teacher and talented pianist and organist. She was the mother of Audley Nichols Swartz, Farmer City, and Harmon Nichols, a newspaper columnist of renown who lives in Washington, D. C.

Walter S. Young, with the aid of his architect, Paul Moratz, Bloomington, and H. E. Judd and Pam Covey, the Farmer City contractors, and Lowry and Hignett, "frescoers" from Chicago, had transformed the building into a "palace of art". The main area of The Columbian seated approximately 400 persons and the balcony 100. Seats downstairs, in the "fashionable area of the theatre" sold for \$2.50 each, a terrific price when we consider that then a "square meal" could be bought for 25 cents. The balcony seats sold for 50 cents to 25 cents. Remember the two boxes, one on either side of the theatre, just off the stage? It is said that Frank Garver and V. N. Hinkle, community spirited citizens, laid \$63 on the dotted line for the two boxes.

Walter S. Young, as owner, was general manager. His brother, Tom Young, (still living at advanced age in Wellington, Kan.), was head usher. Other ushers were Percy Bean, Guy Houseman, Guy Sabin, Hymen Levy, Joe Eppstein and Dwight Herrick (who is still a Farmer City resident).

This beautiful building was the scene of many interesting plays, as well as commencement exercises and served the community later as a Movie House for a short period of years, was abandoned and was finally razed.

CHATAUQUA

For some reason, folks did not need vacations in the early 1900's. The summers were spent en-

tertaining your "City Cousins" or perchance visiting relatives for a few days in neighboring localities. The highlight of several summers was the Chatauqua at Weldon Springs. Many Farmer City families "tented" on the Chatauqua grounds and enjoyed concerts of the highest quality and interesting speakers . . . "Helen Keller" was a big attraction. The socialability of the campers was, of course, a treat as you met your friendly neighbors en route to or from the "Spring" where your butter or milk was kept cool. Many budding romances blossomed there.

Then too, Farmer City was on a Chatauqua Circuit and for one week each summer, the big Chatauqua Tent on the lot across from the library was indeed a popular focal point. There were both afternoon and evening programs . . . consisting of lectures, drama, vocal and instrumental concerts.

NICKLEDIANS — MOVIE HOUSES

In 1914, John T. Kendall, Jr. and his wife, "Kitty", purchased the "Scenic Theatre" which had been operated by Dave Mitchell since 1909. The price of admission was 5c (one nickle).

The name was changed to the "Kendall Theatre" in 1917. The Kendalls always employed a piano player to provide the "background music" for the silent movies. In 1919, they added vaudeville acts to their movie programs. Because it was the only "stage" in town, prior to the building of the high school gym, many home-talent plays were staged there on off-movie nights. Often, church services were held there while the church was undergoing repair or redecorating.

Of course, the Kendalls progressed with the times and brought sound pictures and technicolor spectacles to the many movie fans in Farmer City and provided a "movie center" for many other towns in the area.

Their twin sons, Richard and Reynale Kendall, were of great assistance through the years. Many energetic boys and girls of the community helped pay for their education through their employment at Kendalls.

Many an organization in need of extra funds was allowed to share in the profits from a "special" movie. In so many ways, Kendalls have been real "boosters" for our community. Since John's death in 1957, his wife Kitty and son, Reynale (Duke), have carried on.

A SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON

ORATION FEATURED OLD HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENTS

Long Flowery Speeches of Exodus
by Sweet Girl Graduates

Six or seven hundred people crowded into Bean's Opera House to witness commencement exercises of the high school. The crowd was too large for any sort of convenience or comfort. Most of the spectators, while they were interested in the exercises, were glad when the last item of the program was reached.

1889 — PROGRAMME — 1889

Music — Cornet with piano accompaniment
"Bohemian Girl." Orrie Harrison and Miss Lida Bosler.

Invocation — Rev. Wheaton.

Quartette — "Ring the Bells, Our Tasks Are Done", Gimbe.

Salutatory and Oration — "National Dangers", Stewart Jameson.

Essay — "The Real and The Ideal", Gipsev McDonald.

Music — "Ideal Polka", cornet and piano, Orrie Harrison and Miss Lida Bosler.

Oration — "Modern Delusions", John Clifford.

Essay — "The Power Of Conscience", Louie Rinehart.

Essay — "Dreams Of The Future", Frances Meara.

Quartette — "Sweet and Low", Barnby.

Essay — "The Power Of Expression", Winnie Morley.

Music — Cornet and piano, "Sweet Spirit Hear My Prayer", with variations, Orrie Harrison, Miss Lida Bosler.

Oration — "The Independence Of Thought In America", Fred Gould.

Essay — "Will O' The Wisp", Katie Trenkle.

Quartette — "Softly Dream Sweet Love", Martln.

Oration — "Decision Of Character", Frank Knapp.

Essay — "Is The Face An Index To The Mind?", Eva Chisholm.

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Music — Cornet and piano, "The Vision",
Orrie Harrison and Miss Lida Bosler.

Essay and Valedictory — "The March Of Intellect", Ida Ijam.

Presentation of Diplomas.

Trio — Graduates song, "Concone".

Benediction — Rev. Jewett.

The Salutatory oration, by Stewart Jameson on our "National Dangers" showed that the promising young student had learned his lessons of history from the maxims and teachings of wise and eminent statesmen and sages. Cautious, careful and precise, his oration was free from expletives and frothy gush so common to young orators.

Gypsey McDonald's essay on "The Real And The Ideal" was chaste and elegant in thought and language.

The essay on "The Power Of Conscience" had a touch of purity and sweetness that could not fail to inspire emotions of admiration for the noble and lovable traits of human character.

John Clifford's Oration on "Modern Delusions" was followed by rapturous applause . . . because he ridiculed some absurd superstitions which still fetter the onward march of intelligence. The speech was very good and rather humorous whether Johnny succeeded in divesting the moon of its power over the potato patch is still to be learned.

"The Power Of Expression" was the subject of Miss Winnie Morley's essay which was probably the most difficult theme of any on the program, but she handled it gracefully and retired from the stage amidst applause.

"Dreams Of The Future" by Miss Frances Meara, was rose-tinted and sparkling with the beauty of landscape and flowers as seen by the school girl when she descends from the rostrum with her diploma in hand.

Fred Gould's oration on the "Independence Of Thought In America" was worthy of his theme, and America will never lack for defenders of independent thought if these young people adhere to the lessons of patriotism learned in our public schools.

"Will O' The Wisp" by Miss Katie Trenkle showed a well trained mind and the advantages of education. Her essay was gracefully presented in chaste and elegant language.

The great importance of "decision of character

was well demonstrated in the oration by Frank Knapp.

Essay by Miss Eva Chisholm, "Is The Face An Index To The Mind?" The question involves very much of profound thought, and opens a broad field for discussion; but Miss Chisholm acquitted herself handsomely.

The crowning event of the evening was the valedictory essay of Miss Ida Ijam, on the "March Of Intellect." The theme is one of grandeur calculated to inspire feelings of awe and reverences for the silent, yet sublime "March Of Intellect", moving forward in its conquest of the world, and before which brigades of contending armies and blood-stained battlefields shall disappear. The essay was a fine piece of composition, that proved Miss Ijam had been forcibly impressed with the sentiment: "A little learning is a dangerous thing: Drink Deep or touch not the pyrean spring".

The music, both vocal and instrumental was faultlessly rendered and left no room for honest criticism.

Bouquets of every conceivable design of beauty were showered upon the graduates, and Professor Ransdell with his assistant, Mr. Covey, and the graceful little flower-girls conducted the exercises in an easy and charming manner.

W. R. Morley, secretary of the Board of Education presented the diplomas.

Note — Kate Trenkle Clifford and Lou Rinehart James are the present survivors of the class of 1889 and both are living in this area.

Modes of dress and transportation are not the only definitely noticeable changes in 72 years. High School Commencement programs have changed too. This can be noted in the contrast of the ones 1889 and 1961.

Seven persons and the concert band participated in 1961. They were Miss Alice Peithman, processional; concert by the band; the Rev. Ed Armstrong, invocation; welcome by Dale Burleson, salutation; address, "A Fool's Gold", the Rev. P. W. Hayes, Effingham; National Honor Society installation; presentation of class, Duane R. Gronau, principal; presentation of diplomas, Eugene Houser, president, board of education; farewell by Ruth Ann Samuelson, valedictorian, and benediction by the Rev. Armstrong.

PEOPLE and PROFESSIONS

HERRICK FAMILY PROMINENT HERE FOR THE PAST 95 YEARS

The five sons of George and Dora Herrick, who came to this vicinity in the late 1860's, have aided Farmer City's progress. Dora O. Knight, a former pupil of Capt. George W. Herrick, became his bride at the age of 16. The well known Herrick Law Firm was, of course, founded by George W. Herrick at the close of the Civil War. The eldest son, Lott R. Herrick, graduated from the University of Illinois and completed his law course at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1894 and immediately joined his father's law firm . . . "Herrick and Herrick."

Lott was elected judge of DeWitt County in 1902, but the tragic death of his father caused him to resign in 1904. Lott R. Herrick was known as one of the best and had cases in many surrounding cities and towns. He was elected in 1932 as one of the seven Justices of the Supreme Court of Illinois. He filled that office with personal pride and brought honor to his home town. His death occurred in 1937.

Lyle G. Herrick graduated from the University of Illinois in 1903 and was a life member of the Alumni Association. He served as secretary to his brother, Justice Lott R. Herrick, and was for years the secretary of the Farmer City Building and Loan Association. He was very ably active in all Farmer City projects and maintained the Herrick Law Office until his sudden death in 1954.

G. Wirt Herrick graduated from the University of Illinois in 1913. He lives in Clinton, a partner in the law firm of Herrick, Rudasill and Moss. Wirt served three years as state's attorney of DeWitt County and was prominent in the work of the State's Attorney Assn. He was elected for several terms on the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

Dwight O. Herrick lives in the George Herrick homestead and for many years managed the Herrick farm. He entered the University of Illinois in 1898 and became a Sigma Chi. Wayne D. Herrick graduated from the University of Illinois in 1913 and farmed for many years prior to his appointment as postmaster. He has recently resigned after

CONGRATULATIONS

FARMER CITY

ON YOUR

125th Anniversary Celebration

Thorp Seed Co.

CLINTON, ILL.



serving in that office for 26 years. There were two Herrick daughters, Blanche Herrick Wilson, who died soon after her marriage and Hope Herrick Henry who died in 1920 leaving a son and daughter who were reared by their grandmother, Mrs. Dora Herrick. They too are University of Illinois graduates as are most of the other Herrick descendants.

Capt. George W. Herrick met his death when his frisky young horse shied at one of the first automobiles to travel the streets of Farmer City.

Mrs. George Herrick, nee Dora Knight, Mrs. Lott R. Herrick, nee Harriet Swigart, Mrs. Dwight O. Herrick, nee Katherine Fuller, Mrs. Lyle G. Herrick, nee Vernice H. Norris, and Mrs. Wayne D. Herrick, nee Laura Howard, have been leaders in church and civic affairs in Farmer City through the years.

STENSELS' FUNERAL HOME — 1867-1962

Stensels' Funeral Home, owned and managed by Harlow M., Lester R. and Vernell F. Stensel, was established in 1867 by the brothers' grandfather, John Stensel, Sr., who emigrated from Prussia that year. The voyage required nine weeks from Hamburg to New York City. The young man was a craftsman in the art of woodworking and applied his skill to making furniture. Many pieces of his hand work are still in this community.

Prior to John Stensel's arrival and when the need for coffins occurred they were roughly constructed by friends of the deceased. It became the custom for a man more deft with his hands and simple tools to fashion coffins. Subsequently, John Stensel, Sr., became an undertaker. As time went on he was ably assisted by his sons, George and John. They, keeping abreast with the times and the law, became licensed embalmers and introduced new methods when available. One was a black hearse with eight black plumes around the top, drawn by two black horses also adorned with black plumes. The driver was appropriately dressed in Prince Albert coat and tall silk hat. (The first auto coach was not purchased until 1916 and was the first in use within a radius of 25 miles).

Following graduation from high school, George Stensel's sons, Harlow, Lester and Vernell, each completed a course and graduated from Worsham School of Mortuary Science in Chicago. Harlow joined his father and Uncle John and became a member of the firm in 1917. After Lester's graduation in 1931, he purchased his father's interest. George A. Stensel died in 1933.

In 1932, Vernell bought one-third interest in the firm. The three brothers have established funeral homes at LeRoy, Bellflower and Mansfield which they operate. In 1952, they observed the 85th anniversary of the institution and paid honor to the founder, John Stensel, Sr., and his sons, George and John. At the same time the newly remodeled and handsome building in Farmer City was opened to the public during two days of reception.

A funeral director from Springfield, when asked to give his comment on Stensels' Funeral Home replied, "I have seen larger ones, but never one more beautiful in decor or with better equipment." And so it is that such progress has been made, growing from the early efforts of a young man from Prussia, proving that "Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow."

ISAAC ALBRIGHT AND SON, ANDY, SAW HARNESS BUSINESS GROW AND DIE

In the yester-years of fast stepping horses, the flash of a classy runabout pleased the eye of gallant blades and coy young maidens in Farmer City, just as much as a deluxe V8 1962 super sports model would fascinate them today. In those old days, harness makers made harness by hand, sit-

ting many weary hours at their last and sewed until one would imagine them almost blinded. They sold harness in enormous quantities . . . for a gay youth required a new set of driving harness every year.

Isaac Albright located here in 1869. He and his family drove with a team and wagon from Urbana where he had had a harness business for several years. Isaac's son, Andy Albright, learned the trade when quite young and owned his own shop for 10 years and then for 17 years he managed the M. D. Eppstein Harness Shop.

Henry Mitchell also had a thriving harness business for over 50 years in Farmer City too. Today, close by the sites of the long-gone harness shops, roar the giant vehicles of commerce . . . they almost mock the horse and buggy days of yore.

GARVER CITIZENS

No review, even in brief would be even fairly complete without mention of the Garver name and of the Garver Drug Store which flourished here for over 60 years. Chris and Sam Garver were the founders and then John U. Garver was in the business for a number of years.

It was John Garver who brought Tom Johnson, a lovable, energetic, young Negro porter here where he remained for 40 years. In that time, he was the only representative of the African race in Farmer City. Frank (better known as Bennie) Garver was a colorful Farmer City character. In addition to his drug store he had many interests . . . a long time member of the Farmer City Band, a sports enthusiast, being one of the early golfers. Those who, are fortunate enough to have lived in Farmer City during his life will never forget his trumpeting of "School Days" as he stood just outside his drug store on the first day of September every year.

LEN C. GLESSNER

Len C. Glessner was an early editor and publisher of the Farmer City Journal. Though he did not remain here for a long period of time he remained ever loyal to Farmer City and proved it by frequent visits to his "Old Home Town" whenever possible. Perhaps one reason for his attachment was the fact that he married a Farmer City girl, Emma Chapdelear. Many years ago Glessner founded a factory in Findlay, Ohio for the manufacture of Dr. Drake's Glessco Cough Syrup. It proved a successful venture and the said cough syrup is still sold in drug stores; L. C. Glessner is deceased. His interest in Farmer City was demonstrated in 1937 when he contributed \$500 for the Centennial Fund.

JEWISH FAMILIES IN FARMER CITY

High on the roll of leading citizens stand the names of prominent Jewish families, who have been identified with the business life of Farmer City since the very early 70's and who have been leaders in the civic and social life of the community since that time.

The list of Jewish people associated in business here for any length of time is as follows: Issac Stern, Henry Levy, Gus Levy, Abe Eppstein, Jacob Bach, Moses D. Eppstein, Lep Shulhafer, Max Nathan, Sam Meyer, Louis Meyer, Joseph Meyer, Hyman Levy, Julius Frank, Bert Hirsch, Joseph Eppstein, Sam Somner, Delmar Eppstein, Edwin and Miriam Eppstein. Edwin Eppstein owns and operates the Shoe Store which his father, M. D. Eppstein, purchased from Cumming Brothers in 1896.

ILLS, ACES AND CURES

Doctors and Dentists played important roles in the lives of early citizens. Old time medical men were not spoken of as "physicians" but more simply "doctors", or more than likely "Doc." Dr. John Warner practicing medicine in 1840 was perhaps the first permanently located here. He was followed by Dr. John Clauser, Dr. Loda, Dr. J. W. Woodward, Dr. Amos S. Norris, and his son, Dr.



CREDIT RECORD: second to none!

Supplying plenty of low cost electricity to rural Americans is just one of our big jobs. Another equally important function, we believe, is paying our own way in the nation's economy. We think we've done this mighty well, and here's why:

Even though we serve widely scattered consumers, America's Rural Electric Systems—1,000 strong, across the land—have already paid over \$1 billion in principal and interest on their \$3½ billion in REA loans.

Best of all, every penny of this billion dollars—paid into the U. S. Treasury—came from the light bills of the consumer-owners of these rural electrics! This, we submit, is a credit record second to none—another reason why we say that rural electrification is good for all Americans!



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Amos L. Norris, Dr. John Gardiner, Dr. H. C. Littlejohn, Dr. M. C. McIntire, Dr. L. Stone Kelley and Dr. J. A. Davis.

In more recent years the community had the services of Dr. Miner, Dr. R. M. Hathaway, Dr. C. W. Hull, Dr. J. E. Nienhaus, O. W. E. Nowlin, M.D. and Wilfred J. Nowlin, M.D., sons of J. A. Nowlin, D.O., who founded the Nowlin Clinic, and Robert Bartholomew, M.D. Those presently practicing in Farmer City are John W. Sellett, M.D., Dedra Sellett, M.D., George E. Castrovillo, M.D. and Wilmer Amacher, D.C.

Dentists who practiced their profession in Farmer City were Dr. M. T. Mace, Dr. Josslyn, Dr. Frank Kimler, Dr. Carl Nydegger, Dr. A. M. Wilkes, Dr. I. C. Morrical and Dr. C. C. Schafer. At the present and for some few years past, Dr. C. M. Duff and Dr. F. R. Stoughton have maintained dental practice here.

TILE and BRICK FACTORIES

Old Timers well remember the Major Tile factory up by the railroad's intersection. It was a beehive of industry when every farmer was tiling his land. Today, there are no tile factories in central Illinois and farmers wishing to improve their drainage, purchase "shipped-in drain tile."

Then there was the Arbogast Brick Yard just at the foot of South Main Street, established by Daniel Arbogast who performed a great service in supplying brick, homemade and home-burned, for a multitude of purposes. The brick factory was later operated by his sons, Walter and Sherman Arbogast and their brother-in-law, A. D. Webb. This firm did a large contracting business as well.

EARLY BANKS MARKED FARMER CITY'S THRIVING BUSINESS CENTER

A privately owned bank was established on the present site of the Ross C. Swartz Agency by George and Oscar Thomas and John Weedman in 1876. John Weedman bought out his partners and operated the bank for a number of years under the name of John Weedman, Banker. Weedman Station, three miles northeast of Farmer City, was named in honor of John Weedman whose farm was close by.

After John Weedman's death in 1885 the bank was incorporated as the John Weedman National Bank with Mathias Crum as president, Cassius M. C. Weedman (son of the founder) as cashier and V. S. Lindsey was the vice-president. In 1886, George M. Kincaid entered this bank as bookkeeper and soon became cashier, a position which he held until he retired from active duty in 1931. George Kincaid gave about 45 years to the service of this bank. Frank L. Weedman, a grandnephew of the bank's founder, entered the bank in 1893 as clerk and served many years as assistant cashier and cashier. He was in the bank about 40 years.

The entire block of business buildings, including the John Weedman National Bank, was destroyed by fire in August 1994. The bank opened the next morning in the McMurray building across the street. A. T. Kincaid served as the bank's vice-president for many years. When Mathias Crum retired in 1897, William W. Murphey was elected president and in 1922 was succeeded by Carl O. Gillespie. John Kendall, Jr. entered the bank as a clerk, as did also Robert Cleary. The John Weedman National Bank for many years was one of the large successful banks in this part of Illinois, paying dividends as high as 14 per cent per annum. In its most prosperous days, it had capital of \$75,000, surplus \$75,000 and undivided of as much as \$50,000.

The First National Bank of Farmer City was organized in 1874. Among those active in the 70's and 80's were J. H. Harrison, Cary Burford, F. F. Gay and Frank Miller. Isaac F. Houseman began his long service with the bank in 1886. R. O. Crawford, George Chisholm, Jacob Swigart, Charles Swigart and Earl C. Murphey served as presidents. David L. Fuller became cashier in 1894. The bank's charter expired in 1894 and a new bank was organized. According to National Bank laws some change, slight though it was, had to be made in the name. So the Old First National Bank of Farmer City was adopted. At one time, this bank paid dividends as high as 10 per cent per annum, doing this for a long period of years.

The Farmer City Currency Exchange, operated by Ross Rinehart, served the community from 1932 until the Farmer City State Bank was organized in 1941.

FARMER CITY STATE BANK

The Farmer City State Bank was the first bank in Illinois organized under the law permitting towns under 2,000 population to organize a bank with \$25,000 capital stock. The bank was chartered on October 29, 1941, and opened for business on November 1, 1941 in the building formerly occupied by the Old First National Bank, which closed on March 30, 1930. The bank had \$25,000 capital and \$5,000 surplus and opened with the following officers: Harry C. Gring, president; Grover W. Watson, vice-president; E. R. Rinehart, cashier, and George W. Monen, assistant cashier. The directors were Harry C. Gring, Grover W. Watson, Lyle G. Herrick, Carl L. Monen, Lee B. Sprague, Ralph E. Augustus and E. R. Rinehart. The assets at the close of business November 1, 1941, were \$202,000.

In August 1949, M. B. Drake of Cornland was named vice president succeeding Grover W. Watson and joined the bank as an active officer. Other officers then were Harry C. Gring, president; E. R. Rinehart, cashier, and Wanda Burton and Ralph Moreland as assistant cashiers. Mr. Moreland having come into the bank in 1948 and Wanda in 1947. The directors were Gring, Drake, George Drake, Cornland; Lyle Herrick, Rinehart and Augustus.

Lott C. Howe was elected as a director in January 1950, and as president in December 1950, on the resignation of Harry C. Gring. At this time, Gring and Augustus both resigned as directors and Beryl W. Rutledge and David A. Frederickson were elected to fill those vacancies.

In March 1952, the bank purchased the building to the south from M. T. Collier and Lester J. Kirby and started plans for remodeling. The grand opening of the present building was held on February 12, 1953.

Edward M. Vance came into the bank on January 30, 1953 as assistant cashier and was promoted to assistant vice-president in January, 1960, and in January, 1962, was advanced to vice-president.

Richard Drake was elected as a director in June, 1954, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lyle G. Herrick in April, 1954. On occasion of the retirement of E. R. Rinehart on October 31, 1958, Richard Drake was elected executive vice-president, cashier and trust officer. Ralph Moreland retired on May 31, 1960. Dean Bright, whose home town is Bellflower, joined the bank as vice-president in June, 1960. In January, 1962, he was given the added title of cashier. Robert Drake was elected as a director after the death of M. B. Drake on August 12, 1961.

The bank has enjoyed a steady growth and ranks well with all neighboring banks. Present officers are George E., Richard K. and Robert E. Drake, Bright, Frederickson, Howe and Rutledge.



--- SALUTES ---

FARMER CITY, ILL.

on their

125th Anniversary



PRESENT JOURNAL BUILDING
BUILT BY E. S. WIGHTMAN IN 1952

FARMER CITY NEWSPAPERS

Many newspapers have been printed in Farmer City. However, The Journal holds the longest record of publication, as shown by the following dates:

Republican — 1869-1872. Established by John S. Harper, sold to Cummings and Wilkerson, name changed to **Orthospor**. Lasted only six months.

Real Estate Index — 1871. W. H. Anderson, publisher. Advertising sheet, brief existence.

Journal — 1872-1962. Established by J. S. Harper. Seventeen owners to present date.

Herald — 1873-1875. Established by W. C. Devore and Paul J. Clifford. Sold in two years to Wetzell Brothers. Six weeks later again taken over by W. C. Devore.

Eagle — 1874. Established by J. S. Harper, soon sold to C. W. Armstrong. Brief existence.

Reporter — 1878. Albion Smith, publisher. Destroyed by great fire of 1879.

Public Reaper — 1878-1892, Wesley Clearwater, publisher; R. M. Ewing, editor. In 1881, L. Griffith, publisher, and Reuben Clearwater, editor, moved the plant to Clinton. It was moved back to Farmer City a year later by Ewing who sold to Frank Gillespie. There were other changes in ownership in 1890 and in 1892 was moved to Urbana by Harry and Will Altizer.

The Sun — 1890's. Lewis Erler and E. L. Hendricks.

The Farmer City News — J. D. Clevenger, editor and publisher in existence only a few weeks in the spring of 1917.

POST OFFICE - SOME FIRSTS

POST OFFICE

The first Farmer City Post Office was in the home of Dr. A. L. Norris, Sr. on West Water Street (the present site of the Harlow Stensel home and the Dick McKinleys home). The post office was for a time in the rear of the Davidson's Grocery (the present site of the Frederickson Furniture store). Once it was in the old McMurray building, (site of the present post office.) For a few years it was in the present Library building. Rural delivery was started in 1902 and those early carriers experienced rough going during the winter snows, the spring thaws and the summer dust. City delivery was inaugurated in 1921. Herman R. Savage, Jr., is the postmaster now. The number of employees required to receive and distribute the mail in the post office, now rated as Second Class is as follows: two office clerks, three regular rural carriers, three substitute rural carriers, two city carriers and one substitute city carrier.

SOME FIRSTS IN FARMER CITY

First Radio, owned by Irvin Call—1926.
First Television Set, owned by Jake Young—1948.
First Ham Radio, owned by Eddie Eppstein—1938.
First Telephone, E. S. McClure & Co.—1894.
First Beauty Shop, in Wilson & Watson Millinery Store.
First Beauty Operator, Mae Wolfe—1923.
First Permanent Wave Machine, owned by Osee L. Stensel in O. C. Beauty Shop—1925.
First "Soft Ice Cream" Stands, "Pinkie-Winkie", Joe Price, "Swirley Top", McIntyre and Byers—1953.
First Super Market, Jesse Hammer and Mervin Gardner, IGA, 1960.
First Color TV, Roger Curtis—1956.
First Automobile, Clyde Huddleston—1904.
First Electric Lights, installed by Abe Evans—1891.
First City Well, sunk by Charles Everett—1891.



CONGRATULATIONS

FARMER CITY

on Your 125th Anniversary

MAY SEARS CONTINUE TO SERVE

YOU BETTER IN THE NEXT

125 Years

322 N. Hickory

Champaign, Ill.

356-2531

KENTUCKIANS MOVE TO ILLINOIS

Richard D. Webb of Shelby County, Ky., was attracted to Illinois through some means in 1833, and with his family was the fifth settler to locate in Hurley's Grove. He bought 400 acres of government land south of Farmer City and built a large log cabin on ground where Maple Grove Cemetery is located. There, the Webb children were reared and became well known and respected citizens of the entire community.

Following his brother-in-law, R. D. Webb, Charles C. Watson, a native of Bourbon County, Ky., traveled to this vicinity via covered wagon in 1847. With him were his wife, Evaline C., and 12-year-old son, William W. Some pieces of furniture were securely fastened on the sides of the wagon, including two small hickory rockers, handmade by C. C., which are still in good condition and in possession of the craftsman's granddaughter, Lucy A. Watson. Although a cabinet maker by trade, C. C. Watson bought land south of Farmer City and was engaged in farming for 40 years. He and his wife were charter members of the First Christian Church erected in Farmer City (then Mount Pleasant) which was organized in 1864.



R. D. WEBB

THE FARMER CITY FAIR

That was the entertainment deluxe for the Farmer City people of the 80's and 90's. In those early years, there were said to have been 10,000 persons in attendance on Thursday afternoons, when there were acres and acres of buggies, carriages and spring wagons, with the horses tethered to the wheels, "parked" on the fair grounds and on all adjacent streets. Each vehicle had a chalk-scratched number on the dash board for identification. Family season tickets were \$2. Most folks brought picnic dinners. Joseph G. Moore (to help win votes for his political candidate), decided to feed the multitude at the Fair one day. Whole beeves were roasted over open pits. All comers were welcome and each received a wooden plate holding a hunk of beef, a bun, and a pickle and a tin cup of coffee, (not instant). 'Tis said that over 10,000 persons partook of the famous barbecue. The present generation is still being benefitted by the generosity of the bequest of Joseph G. and Sabina Moore to our High School.

Amid the heat, flies and dust, the carnival spirit prevailed at the Fair. Chariot races were an early attraction, when a man driving four black horses abreast and a lady driving a chariot pulled by four white horses swept around the old half-mile track. 'Twas a glimpse of the Roman days from the Life of Ben Hur brought right down to Farmer City. Horse racing was, of course, a major attraction at the old Fair, featuring harness and running races.

The grounds boasted a dining hall, screened with mosquito netting, a floral hall and a grand stand. Across the track was a band stand and a high booth for the judges. The red lemonade, the salt water taffy, the side shows, the fakes, the quacks which congregated at the old fair . . . the band playing between races . . . and a few balloon ascensions . . . all these are twisted about in the convolutions and

the sutures, or something like that in your brain cells as you recall the old Farmer City Fair. The recollection of how Carl O. Gillespie, as grand marshal, rode up and down on the race track, a perfect horseman on his prancing coal black charger, and adorned with a red sash has remained with countless numbers of people as the richest memory of the old Farmer City Fair.

The first annual exposition of the modern Fair was held at the present location in 1905. Harness and running races were featured as was a society horse show. G. W. Hoffman was president and H. S. Farmer was secretary.

In 1933, the fourth stock show and agricultural fair was held in Weedman Park. That year C. O. Gillespie was president and W. F. Peterson was secretary. In 1936, the fair moved to 40 acres adjoining Highway 48 (now Highway 54) with the slogan "Bigger and Better." A 4-H beef show was added to the open show that year. Ross Rinehart became secretary. Midget auto races began that year to continue for a number of years. The races' luck with the weather was phenomenal. A standing comment in the community was "it won't rain tonight, the midgets are running." Auto racing of one kind or another has continued to this day even following the move of the grounds back to the original and current location in 1943 where new lights were added in 1953.

The gain in stature of the fair can be seen in the comparison of recent reports. In 1950, exhibitors were paid \$14,588 in premiums while in 1961, they were paid \$20,130. State aid has increased in that period from \$8,500 to \$10,732 and the value of improvements from \$25,000 to \$65,000. The number of entries has increased from 1,695 to 2,763. Currently Willard Thomas is president and Robert G. Gammage is secretary.

HI -- OLDTIMER

125 YEARS IS A LONG TIME
WE HAVE "BEEN ON MAIN STREET" — ALMOST HALF THAT TIME
(NOW 56 YEARS)

Back In The "GOOD OLD DAYS" We Sold
COOK STOVES -- ICE BOXES -- WASHBOARDS -- HARNESS

For 1/2
Century
We Have Sold
MONOGRAM
STOVES
and
ECLIPSE
MOWERS

COLLIER APPL. CO.

DICK COLLIER,
OWNER - MGR.

SEE THE 1962
Frigidaire Air Conditioners
— HERE NOW —

For 1/4
Century
We Have Sold
FRIGIDAIRE
SHELLANE GAS
HOOKER
PAINT

EUGENE KEMPLIN
SERVICE

MRS. IRENE KNISLEY
HOUSEWARES - WALLPAPER

CASE

NEW IDEA

FISHER EQUIPMENT CO.

NEW, USED and ABUSED FARM MACHINERY
Farmer City, Ill.

E. C. FISHER

CITY LIGHT PLANT

A bronze plaque on the present light plant pre-claims the fact that the first light plant was built in 1888. We are sure that date is correct because thorough investigation would have preceded the casting of the bronze tablet in 1945. However, a copy of Ordinance No. 9 does grant a franchise to one Abraham Evans to erect a light plant and use the city streets and alleys for his poles. Ordinance No. 9 was passed May 6, 1891.

Ordinance No. 25 fixing the rates at 75 cents per month for each 16 watt bulb and \$1.25 a month for each 32 watt bulb reflects the fact that the City owned the plant by the date of this Ordinance, 1895. It is reported that the city purchased the light plant from Evans.

The first plant was steam operated and the early steam engineers (it is reported) were, in the order of their service to the City, Charlie Johnson, Elzie Pettit, Ed Conover, Charles McMurphy, Marshall Johnson, Chester Lentz, Jim Thompson and Oliver Guthridge.

It is further reported that in those early days, there were four wards and the old steam whistle blew the number of the ward for each fire. Charles McMurphy blew the steam whistle for the last time to welcome in the year 1933. That was the year of the controversy of steam-vs.-diesel.

In 1934, the plant had two generators — one steam and one diesel. In 1935, the plant went completely diesel.

In 1945, the old concrete smokestack was torn down and the original wooden structure replaced with the present structure. The Kuhne-Simmons Construction Co. erected the building under the supervision of the Miller Engineering Service. F. M. Stutzman was mayor and Ronald Savage was the clerk. The Aldermen were J. B. Dawson, T. J. O'Mallie, Frank McIntyre, Ralph Stagen, Bud McConkey and H. C. Wheeler.

Each mayor and his council have contributed to the growth of the light plant. The O. P. generator, which today carries the bulk of the k.w.h. load, was added during the administration of Dr. H. R. Hester (1949-1953). The new O. P. generator went into operation in April, 1953.

During the administration of Mayor Marshall F. Jones (1957-1961), the present cooling system was added.

At present, the plant saves tax dollars by absorbing the cost of street lighting, park lighting and the electric requirements of the Municipal Building (City Hall).

Nothing reflects the changing times like our light plant. In 1907, Ed Conover and Charles McMurphy petitioned the council for a raise from \$45 a month to \$60, reflecting a monthly payroll at that time of \$90 per month. In 1961, the monthly plant payroll was \$1,250.

The electric rates, however, have been in the reverse. In 1936, the rates were set at 10 cents for the first 10 k.w.h., 8 cents for the next 20 k.w.h., 5 cents for the next 30 k.w.h. and all over 60 k.w.h. 3 cents. The present rates are 7 cents for the first 30 k.w.h., 5 cents for the next 70 k.w.h., 3 cents for the next 150 k.w.h. and all over 250 k.w.h. 2 cents. Users of residential electricity using over 280 k.w.h. per month are actually paying less today than they would have paid in 1936.

It is reported that when Abraham Evans had his light plant complete and the electric lights on Main Street, a platform and chair-like throne was built and Evans was carried down Main Street on the shoulders of delighted citizens. Electricity was a luxury then — it is a necessity now.

GRAIN OPERATIONS

As early as 1871, A. T. Peckham of Providence, R. I., had a grain office in Farmer City. William W. "Billy" Alder came in the early 70's. He was a big man in the grain trade, so large indeed that he gave up local grain buying about 1890 and entered the wholesale grain trade, handling grain in carload lots. He opened up a grain office downtown and the Farmer City citizens felt proud indeed to have at least one wholesale business in town. Lewis Ludington owned a lumber business here and in 1878 began buying and shipping grain. Morton Kent allied with lumber and grain in Farmer City until 1892.

In the late 90's and early 1900's, there were five elevators and one feed mill in Farmer City. Two elevators north of Illinois Central depot, the present Farmer City Grain Co., and two on North Main St. The mill stood where Pre-Fab office for repair shop is today.

The elevator, where present stock yard is, burned down. The one across the track from Illinois Central depot was torn down and part of it was moved and attached to present Farmer City Grain Co. elevator.

The two elevators on North Main Street burned. The one on east side never was rebuilt — one on west side was rebuilt and before it was finished it burned, but they went right on — built another, which was the one that burned in 1946. Then the present concrete one and mill were built. In 1961, the Pacific Grain Co. built a large concrete elevator on private ground.

The two concrete elevators have a capacity of over 600,000 bushels.

The present three elevators, Federal-North Iowa Grain Co., Farmer City Grain Co., and Pacific Grain Co., are equipped with unloading, drying and cleaning machinery. Not only the grain of the surrounding territory is received, but hundreds of carloads of grain are shipped in by rail, processed for eastern markets and export, which makes Farmer City outstanding in the grain business.

MAYORS AND CLERKS OF FARMER CITY

Here is a partial list of elected officials in two offices of Farmer City dating from 1873.

Mayors were David Kelley, 1873; W. F. Calhoun, 1875; Mathias Crum, 1875; W. W. Alder, 1877; I. N. Lawman, 1879; P. V. Cool (protem), 1880; C. M. Welch, 1881; William Haynie, 1882; P. M. Holloway, 1883; T. S. Weedman, 1885; John Cusey, 1887; T. S. Weedman, 1889; Frank P. Sangster, 1891; E. C. Swigart, 1899; C. D. Rock, 1907; Charles P. Arbogast, 1909; John W. Kendall, 1911; David L. Fuller, 1915; John W. Kendall, 1917; G. B. Shere, 1925; John W. Kendall, 1929; W. F. Peterson, 1933; R. E. Augustus, 1941; Wayne M. Fuller, 1945; F. M. Stutzman, 1945; H. R. Hester, 1949; F. M. Stutzman, 1953; Marshall F. Jones, 1957, and H. R. Hester, 1961 (current).

Clerks were W. H. Anderson, 1873; J. B. Lewis, 1874; Thompson Bosler, 1875; George B. Dickey, 1876; Lewis Lovington, 1877; A. L. Hathaway, 1879; W. J. Morgan, 1881; W. S. Young, 1881; John F. Hoyt, 1893; Lott R. Herrick, 1894; C. M. C. Weedman, 1895; Charles Webb, 1898; E. W. Dunham, 1899; V. E. Brown, 1901; Henry Funk, 1903; Tom Young, 1907; David Mitchell, 1909; Fred H. Reed, 1913; Walt Taylor, 1917; Glen W. Downs, 1933; Ronald Savage, 1945; Arthur Bates, 1948; Eva A. Robison, 1953; John E. Jones, 1957, and John H. Collier, 1958 (current).

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DRAGLINE -- BULLDOZER -- BACK HOE
GRAVEL and GRAVEL EQUIPMENT...

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★ CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING ★

COMPLETE PROCESSING FOR LOCKERS

HOME FREEZERS — CURING

★ RETAIL MEATS -- ALL KINDS ★

By Order

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DELAND, ILL.

HISTORY OF CITY HALL

City Hall was erected in 1904 by the W. J. Arbogast Construction Co. just south of Young's Columbian Opera House. A two-story brick building — the second floor was built for and dedicated to the City Library and firemen's recreation room — the first floor accommodated the firefighting equipment, city office and council room, police department, jail and repair shop for city equipment.

E. C. Swigart was mayor at the time and H. Funk was clerk with Aldermen being R. K. Faucett, W. H. Robison, J. W. Harper, T. E. McConkey, P. Covey and W. R. Pryer.

When the John Weedman Bank ceased to operate, some of the bank equipment was obtained for the use at City Hall. It is reported that the counter and change machine and possibly the clock presently in use came from the Weedman Bank.

In the early 30's, the fire fighting equipment was moved to its present location. The library was eventually moved. At one time, the upper floor of the City Hall housed a W.P.A. serving room. At present, this upper floor is used by the American Legion Auxiliary for housing used clothing and hospital equipment. This has been under the supervision of Mrs. Daisy Kent for the past seven years. The upper floor also houses a Boy Scout room, a

After the city warehouse was built in 1957, all trucks, workshop and city water and light supplies were removed from City Hall. From the beginning of 1958 through 1961, City Hall was remodeled on the interior and an illuminated sign placed on the outside of the building, which sign informs the public that it is now the Municipal Building.

During the administration of Mayor Marshall F. Jones, (1957-1961), the building was remodeled and refurbished to accommodate a police room and magistrate court, a completely mechanized city office, a room for transfer of files, a council chamber and general assembly room and a Civil Defense room. The council members who assisted in the planning and organizing of this program of modernization were City Clerk John H. Collier and Aldermen Lloyd Lent, George Stewart, Roy Wright, Sr., Albion Kirk, Jesse S. Hammer, Floyd Burton, Floyd King and Roy Ratcliffe. Under the administration of Mayor H. R. Hester, additional filing equipment and a tape calculating machine has been added. The citizens of Farmer City are justly proud of the beauty and usefulness of the Municipal Building.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT

In the beginning, all waste from the city sewer system was dumped into Salt Creek. Throughout the years, the amount of sewage dumped into Salt Creek increased until a complaint was lodged with the state charging "stream pollution". There followed an order from the state that the city sewage was to be disposed of otherwise. The city's answer to this order was the present Sewage Disposal Plant.

During the administration of Mayor F. M. Stutzman (1953-1957), Ordinance No. 286, calling for a special election to authorize the issuing of \$125,000 worth of general obligation bonds, was passed and signed into law by Mayor Stutzman and attested to by City Clerk Eva A. Robison, May 14, 1956. The special election was held June 5, 1956, and the bond issue authorized. One hundred twenty-three bonds were issued bearing interest of 3½ per cent. The last bond is scheduled for liquidation in 1976.

The amount was insufficient and on February 11, 1957, Ordinance No. 291 was duly passed and signed into law by Mayor Stutzman and attested to by City Clerk Eva A. Robison authorizing the flag room and a room for the Jaycees.

issuing of \$112,000 in revenue bonds. A federal grant to the city of \$49,751.23 made the entire amount unnecessary. January 16, 1958, Ordinance No. 304 was duly passed and signed into law by Mayor Marshall F. Jones and attested to by City Clerk John H. Collier reducing the issue of 1957 revenue bonds to \$70,000.

The present plant, which has the capacity of 5,000 population, was completed at a bonded debt cost to the city of only \$193,000, thanks to the federal grant.

The plant was built by the West Construction Co., Bloomington. It was engineered by Farnsworth and Wylie, also of Bloomington. The city bonds were handled by Benjamin and Lang, Chicago. The following city officials contributed an enormous amount of time and consideration to the erecting and financing of the plant — Mayors F. M. Stutzman and Marshall F. Jones; City Clerks Eva A. Robison, John E. Jones and John H. Collier; City Treasurer E. R. Rinehart; City Attorney O. A. Peithman, and Aldermen R. R. Robison, R. Shubert, C. A. Roberts, R. E. Wright, Sr., H. T. Clarno, A. Kirk, J. S. Hammer, F. E. Burton, L. W. Lent and George Stewart.

The plant was put into operation on July 1, 1958, under the supervision of City Superintendent Dean Schmitz and was dedicated by an open house August 10, 1958. One hundred fifty-one people signed the guest book that day. In 1961, the Illinois Department of Sewage and Industrial Wastes complimented and commended Supt. Schmitz by awarding a trophy to the City of Farmer City for the best run and regulated plant in class "D" and "E" for the year 1960.

CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is reported by our senior citizens that before the time of our City Police Department, the City had a night watchman financed by merchant donations or perhaps a merchant assessment. At one time (as our informant states), part of the duties of the night watchman was to trim, fill, light and extinguish the kerosene street lights.

By March, 1948, the city had established by many years of precedence a police force of two regular police officers (one on duty daytime, one on duty nighttime). The day duty officer had the additional duties of meter reading and dog catching. In 1957, the police were relieved of the duty of meter reading.

The first squad car was purchased from the DeWitt County Sheriff's office in 1951. It was a 1947 Ford equipped with two-way radio. In 1955, the city purchased an electric speed timer. In 1960, a radar unit was purchased for the purpose of checking and controlling speeding on the city streets.

In 1962, a Citizens' Band Radio unit was installed in the squad car, City Hall and the Light Plant for the purpose of better serving the citizens of Farmer City.

At present, the City has a police force of two regular officers, a nicely furnished police courtroom in City Hall, and a squad car equipped with radio contact with the city, the county and the state.

AN EARLY MEMORY

In 1869, an eight-year-old boy, Harry Watson, was dispatched by his father to the "store" in Farmer City to buy turpentine which was needed for a sick horse. By the time the lad had reached the store he could not remember the name of the medicine. The merchant tried in vain to help by naming various remedies. The revealing clue came when Harry said, "When you twist the cork, it squeaks."



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FARMER CITY, ILL.

HISTORY OF THE FARMER CITY COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The necessary preliminary planning and thinking was done in the winter of 1957-1958. The original petition for the formation of the Farmer City Community Fire Protection District was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DeWitt County, Illinois, on February 4, 1958. After the required notice, a hearing was held and an order entered by the County Court of DeWitt County approving the petition and ordering an election, whether such proposed territory should be organized as a fire protection district.

The election was held on the 5th day of April, 1958, and the voters approved the formation of the district by approximately 5-1.

On April 24, 1958, Judge William C. Calvin appointed Vernell Kent, J. A. Little and Frank L. Simpson to serve as trustees of the newly-formed fire protection district. The trustees are responsible for the government and control of the affairs and business of the fire protection district. The original trustees were appointed for one, two and three years. The length of term was determined by lot at the first meeting. The trustees served from the first Monday of May next after their appointment and until their successors are appointed by the County Court and qualified. As the original appointments expired, the trustees were appointed to serve three-year terms. Ortheldo A. Peithman is attorney for the district.

At the first meeting of the trustees in May of each year, they elect one of their number to serve as president, one as secretary, and one as treasurer for the district. Each trustee is bonded under a bond which the County Court set at \$2,000. They also select an attorney for the fire protection district to serve for the ensuing year.

The trustees appoint a fire chief and such firemen as may be necessary for the district who shall hold office during the pleasure of the trustees. The duties and compensation of all officers and employees are determined by the trustees.

When the district was first organized, the trustees were faced with two problems: First, what equipment was needed? And second, how could the equipment be paid for, because no tax money would be available for 15 months after the district was formed?

The trustees made a careful survey of the equipment and buildings used by other fire protection districts in central Illinois which had comparable conditions and requirements as this one. The trustees were guided very much by the successes and mistakes of other fire districts.

The trustees took bids on all needs except small hardware. The equipment and building of the Farmer City Volunteer Fire Department was purchased, and the building was completely repaired and rebuilt as a community project.

The trustees had the old fire house repaired, took out the wooden floor, filled the basement as a community project, and replaced the wooden floor with a concrete floor with drains and water pipes installed. This was necessary to accommodate the heavy equipment needed to serve a rural and urban fire protection district.

The two main units of equipment purchased were one—750 gpm. pumper, booster and hose truck fully equipped; and one—1,000 gallon tanker booster and hose truck fully equipped with 100 gpm. pump. It was a day of community pride when the Farmer City Community Fire Protection District had the open house for everyone in the area to inspect the rebuilt and the new equipment.

But how was this financed? The trustees went to the Farmer City State Bank and discussed the annual taxing ability of the Farmer City Community Fire Protection District and the financial prob-

lems of the district. They asked the bank to loan the district the needed money to get services started, which the bank has done at what the trustees believe to be a saving to the district.

The trustees decided on a fiscal year for the district from July 1 to June 30. This seemed to fit into the tax income year.

The district serves an area around Farmer City — most of the territory is in DeWitt County, but small portions of Piatt and McLean Counties are included also.

Twenty-four volunteer firemen serve the district. They receive no salary, but are allowed small fees for attending training meetings.

The maximum tax per year has been levied each year to pay off the indebtedness for the new equipment and for rebuilding the building. The payment to be made in July, 1962, will complete the payments on the original cost.

After 1962, a lower tax will be levied, which will be consistent with sound business operation. There are current operational expenses that must be met each year to have continuous adequate fire protection.

After public sentiment was expressed in favor of the formation of a fire protection district, the legal steps were taken as rapidly as the law would permit for the establishment of the district. The district now meets all requirements of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, and the Farmer City Community Fire Protection District is now an accredited district eligible for insurance rate reduction.

The volunteer firemen have been and are doing a fine service for the people in the district. As one local citizen expressed it: "When the fire is lapping at your back door, and the firemen are there to save your home, you really appreciate what the firemen are standing ready to do for each citizen in the fire district."

TRAINS — BEFORE PLANES and AUTOS

Railroads may have been slow coming through Farmer City, but they did eventually, and good roads they were too. The Illinois Central and the Big Four provided excellent service north, south, east and west, and often "excursions" for special occasions at very low rates. In 1904, a total of passenger trains made 20 daily stops here. In 1958, that number had been reduced to six. Today two Illinois Central passenger trains stop at Farmer City, en route to Chicago and St. Louis. The New York Central (Big Four) discontinued all passenger service in 1957. Freight trains on both roads continue to give adequate service to the Federal-North Iowa Grain Co., the Farmer City Grain Co., and other shippers.

AN EARLY TALE

An early day temporary individual in this community failed to pay his grocery bill when due, or even when long overdue. The merchant was growing impatient and pressed the debtor for his pay. He received another promise which appeared to be a very sincere one, "if I live until Monday I will be here and pay every cent I owe". Monday came—and went, but no Mr. X. On Tuesday morning the creditor circulated the word that Mr. X was dead. When the report reached Mr. X he was enraged and went to "have it out" with Mr. W. who very calmly explained, "I believed you would keep your word. You vowed you would be here Monday if alive. Naturally, what else could I be sure of but that you were dead?" Mr. X. was still not calmed as he shouted, "I knew it was a lie as soon as I heard it."

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MAYOR JOHN KENDALL, ARROW, SURVEYS BRICK PAVING PROJECT IN 1911

FARMER CITY PAVING--CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Certain concrete sidewalks were put on Main Street in the early part of 1907 and proved so satisfactory that on Sept. 3, 1907, the City Council passed a resolution that all future sidewalks put in on petition be concrete.

On May 13, 1912, Ordinance No. 108 was passed to brick-pave portions of Main Street, the public square and parts of Market Street and Plum Street.

First, Ordinance No. 107 had to be passed relating to sewer pipe. Then, Ordinance No. 107 had to be financed and Ordinance No. 111 was later passed to finance by Special Assessment Ordinance No. 107. The estimated cost was \$4,187.16.

Ordinance No. 108 (to pave) was financed by Ordinance No. 112 for special assessment, estimated cost \$21,728.04.

On the 23rd day of June, 1924, the Board of Local Improvements consisting of Mayor John Kendall, Alderman Pam Covey and Alderman Abe Hall presented Ordinance No. 143 to brick-pave certain streets in Farmer City, at an estimated cost of \$144,357.40. It is reported that there was a controversy of brick vs. concrete. The following Aldermen voted for the ordinance, Hall, Clarno and Covey. The following Aldermen voted against the ordinance, Schilling, Neal and Collier. Mayor Ken-

dall broke the tie by voting for the ordinance. However, contrary to Ordinance No. 143, concrete paving was put in and the controversy must have been settled by Nov. 3, 1924, because City Clerk Walt Taylor's minutes of that date show a unanimous vote to pay the firm of Hoolbrook, Warren and Van Praag the sum of \$2,165.36 for their services of surveying and making plans and specifications.

In 1950, Ordinance No. 236 was passed (a street improvement bond ordinance to be brought to special election April 4, 1950). The purpose was to widen Main Street and install mercury vapor lighting on Main Street. The citizens voted the bond issue in and 25 bonds were sold at 2¾ per cent interest. The last bond was retired Jan. 1, 1961. Dr. H. R. Hester was Mayor and Arthur Bates was Clerk. The aldermen were Virgil McConkey, Homer Vance, Wayne Larison, Harold Wheeler, Thomas O'Mallie and Vernell Kent.

On Sept. 14, 1950, Mayor Hester made a dedication address and turned on the lights and the illumination of our Main Street became the envy of many of our neighboring towns.

From the mud and dust and kerosene street lamps, a modern Main Street has developed, thanks to the dedicated people who have voted for and worked for civic improvements.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Emma J. Longmate's account of the organization of the Farmer City Library, which appeared in the Centennial issue of the Farmer City Journal in 1937 furnishes the following information:

The origin of the Public Library of Farmer City started in the minds and hearts of the members of the History Club and the Shakespeare Club, the two literary clubs of the city. The first books were secured by donation and were placed on shelves in the Journal office. Distribution was made on stated days by various members of the two clubs. The ladies worked feverishly staging home talent plays and other entertainments, public dinners and received special donations.

In 1904, the "Library Association" was organized by these two clubs. The first officers of the association were Mrs. G. W. Herrick, Mrs. M. C. McIntire, Miss Nettie L. Moore and Mrs. H. C. Littlejohn. The books were soon moved to the front room of the second floor of the City Hall. In 1914, the city took over the library and the "mill" tax was secured and used for library expenses, includ-

ing the librarian. Miss Nettie L. Moore was the first librarian. Others who served were Bessie (Fuller) Swigart, Osee (Moberly) Stensel, Frances (Weedman) Miles, Edith Lindsey, and Ethel (Hender) Nordwahl. Mrs. Estella Weedman served as librarian for 31 years. On July 7, 1927, the city purchased the building on East Green Street, formerly occupied by the post office, and the library is still comfortably located in this building.

Miss Edna Rock became librarian upon the death of Mrs. Weedman in July of 1951 and is currently filling that post.

The current library board consists of Mrs. Russell Bateman, president; Mrs. Ray Denison, vice president; Miss Patricia Weedman, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Myrtle Mitchell, Mrs. Harlow Stensel, Mrs. Francis Hawn, Miss Clara Gardiner and Miss Adeline Holmes.

The library association board is composed of Mrs. Neva Nowlin, president; Mrs. George Dunn, treasurer; Miss Edna Rock, secretary; Mrs. Harlow Stensel, Mrs. O. A. Peithman, Mrs. F. R. Stoughton and Mrs. Lucile Wightman.

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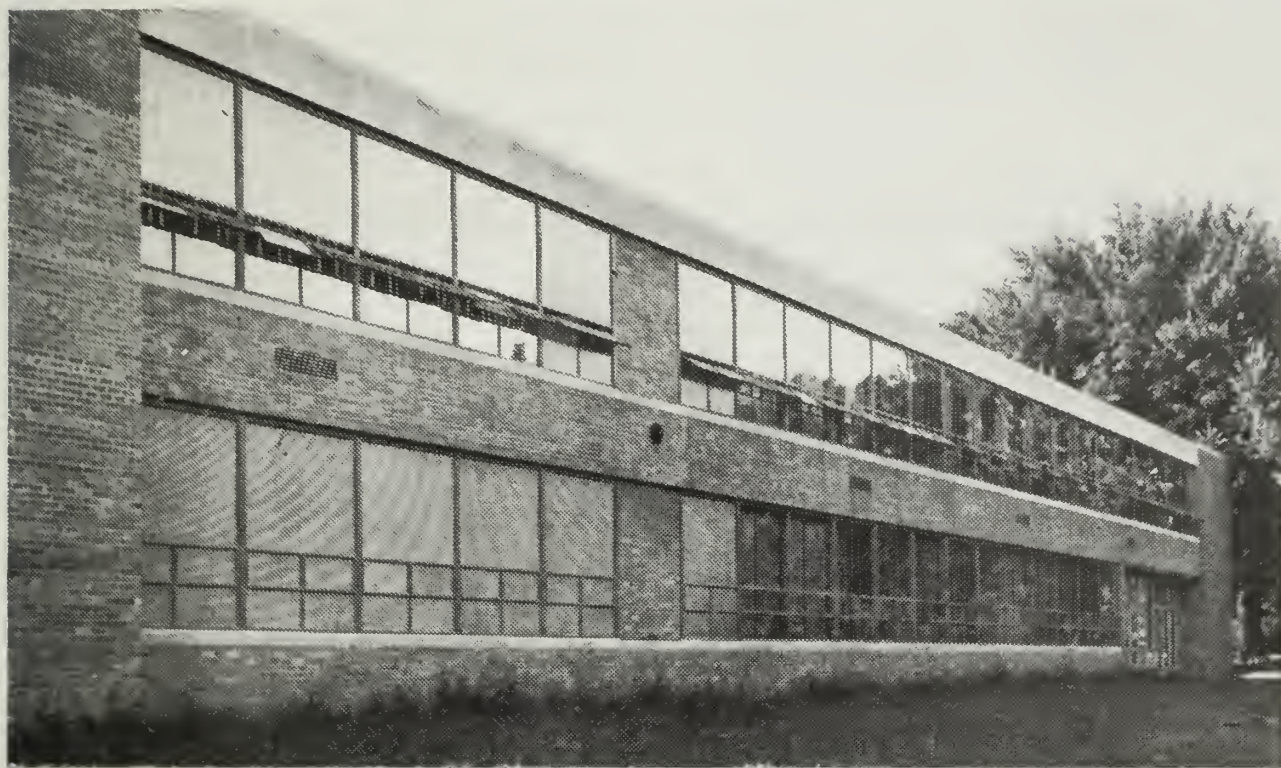
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BON AIRE INN

A number of special bequests have been made in the past 25 years to add to those during the previous existence of the library. Included are those in memory of or by Tom Johnson, 1938; Lora Willis, 1938; Lancaster, Estate, 1947 and Mrs. L. R. Herrick, on a number of occasions. The latest was \$600 granted to the library from the Thomas Frasier Clark Foundation.

The cash bequests in the last 25 years have totalled to approximately \$7,500. In addition, there have been a number of individual book bequests as memorials.

The Woman's Club and the Shakespeare Club have continued to lend support to the library through the years.



FARMER CITY'S NEWEST SCHOOL

SCHOOLS IN FARMER CITY

The old, old schoolhouse stood on the corner where the Fisher Equipment Co. is now located. It was in that building where Captain George W. Herrick, a Civil War veteran, taught and subsequently married one of his pupils, Dora O. Knight, in 1870.

A two-story brick school building containing eight rooms, from primary through eighth, a larger one for high school and the superintendent's office stood on East Market Street, site of the present Franklin Grade School. It was built in 1872 and was the one and only schoolhouse in Farmer City for 40 years. It was razed to erect the modern Franklin in 1912. Many of the older citizens well remember their capable first grade teacher, Mrs. Gypsy Brandon, who taught here for 24 years.

It was in the old structure where C. C. Covey began his career as high school teacher and superintendent of the grades, a position he held for 35 years, an unmatched record. His ability as an educator and disciplinarian were recognized by parents and pupils. His authority was not questioned, nor his orders disobeyed. He had the respect of all. C. C. Covey was self-educated to a degree, though he attended Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State Normal University. It was through his efforts and influence that the Farmer City

High School was placed on the accredited list at the University of Illinois.

Since the Centennial Celebration in 1937, many interesting changes have been made in the Farmer City Schools. At the time of the last celebration, the schools were a dual system. This means there were two school districts and two boards of education. There was no connection between the grade school and the high school.

The high school was known as Moore Township High School. This was formed in the year 1911. A board of education consisting of five members controlled this type of school. The administrator was known as the principal. Oscar H. Wisthuff, who had come into the faculty in 1929, was elected as principal in 1935 and remained in that position until the summer of 1948. Mrs. Martha Curtis began the duties of secretary to the principal of Moore Township High School in the fall of 1945 and is still working in that position.

The elementary school was under the control of a seven-member board. The present Franklin building was constructed in 1911. A bond issue in the amount of \$25,000 was voted in order to build the original building.

In 1937, J. W. Price was employed as principal of the Farmer City Elementary Schools, known as

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MANSFIELD, ILL.

School District No. 16. In 1939, a two-room addition with basement was added to the original Franklin building. Price remained principal until the summer of 1943. Gene Ackerman was employed as principal for the two-year period from 1943-1945. Then J. Harold Thomas was employed as principal from 1945-1947. In 1947-48, Clarence W. Garrison headed the school as principal. This was the period in Illinois history where larger units were being formed. Schools were grabbing territory like mad. So as a rather protective measure, a Community Consolidated School was voted into existence. This district lasted only one year. On Dec. 2, 1947, an election was held for the purpose of forming a Community Unit School District. The vote was 208 to 86 in favor of the unit.

On Dec. 30, 1947, an election was held to elect members to the board of education to the newly-formed Community Unit School District No. 10. The following people were elected, Eugene Hoffman, Frank Maxwell, R. E. Augustus, Willard Thomas, Keith Swigart, Bert Shubert and Mrs. Darlene Walden. These people drew lots for length of their terms. R. E. Augustus was elected president and Mrs. Walden was elected secretary.

On Jan. 28, 1948, this board met and employed J. W. Price, Charleston, formerly with the system, as the superintendent of the new unit school system. In February, 1948, Lawrence E. Smith was employed as principal of Moore High School. In March, 1948, the board employed Oliver Buck as principal of Franklin Elementary School.

In the fall of 1948, all elementary children of the new unit were transported into Farmer City. All grades from one through six were housed in the Franklin building and the seventh and eighth grades were in Moore High School. This same year driver training was added to the high school curriculum.

ADDITIONAL BUILDING

The same fall (1948), a frame building was added to the brick bus garage to make room for agriculture, industrial arts and band. This was supposed to be a temporary building. Classrooms were put in the basement at the Franklin building. By the time school started that fall, all children were housed.

In November, 1948, an election was held to determine whether the rural school buildings should be sold. The vote of this election was 27 yes, 3 no. The buildings were sold the next spring by the township school trustees.

After the April school election in 1950, Lyle Niklaus was elected president of the board of education and Mrs. Walden continued serving as secretary of the board. Buck resigned as principal of Franklin and Charles Moon was employed for the term of 1950-51. On Feb. 21, 1951, the board of education adopted a set of written "Rules and Regulations."

In the spring of 1951, Frank Maxwell was elected president of the board and Mrs. Walden continued as the board secretary. Charles House was employed as principal of the elementary school. House remained as principal until 1956.

In December, 1952, Mrs. Paul Durbin began her work as secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, which position she still holds. Paul Durbin, who had been teaching agriculture for several years, resigned in 1953 and Eugene Elliott was employed and he is still teaching agriculture in the same old temporary shop.

Dale Alexander was employed by this school and the LeRoy school as a speech correctionist.

This year, 1953, was the year that plans were laid for the construction of a new elementary school building. In August, 1953, the board employed At-

kins, Barrow and Associates as architects. On Saturday, Dec. 12, 1953, the decision was made by the people of the district to build a new school. On Feb. 8, 1954, bonds in the amount of \$415,000 were sold for the purpose of financing the new building.

On April 12, 1954, Maurice Hurley was elected president of the board and Mrs. Walden was named to continue as secretary to the board. Hurley continued on the board and served as its president from 1954 until 1959. Mrs. Walden served as secretary to the board until April, 1955, when Robert Mullen took over the task for two years. In April, 1957, Lloyd Rodman was elected secretary and served one year. In April, 1958, Paul Durbin was elected secretary to the board and is still serving in that capacity.

On May 10, 1954, bids were let for the construction of the new Community Grade School building. Price, who had served as superintendent of the district since its formation in 1948, resigned in June, 1955, to accept a position as superintendent of schools at Mendota, Ill., where he remains.

Lawrence Christopher was employed as superintendent in 1955 and had the task of seeing that the new building was completed and ready for use by September, 1955. This was a tremendous task. The cafeteria which had been in the high school basement since its beginning in 1946 was moved to the cafeteria in the new building. Mrs. Lucile Vance started as cafeteria manager in 1946 and is still in that position. The first year, 1946, about 120 students ate at the cafeteria and now about 500-550 eat. As House left the system as elementary principal in the spring of 1956, the board and Supt. Christopher employed two men to serve as teaching principals. Russell Garmon and Robert Hombaker were employed as teaching principals in Community Grade and Franklin Elementary respectively. In May, there was a referendum to permit the educational tax rate to go from \$1 to \$1.15 on the \$100 assessed valuation.

CHANEY EMPLOYED

In June, 1956, Christopher resigned as unit superintendent to accept a position with the Singer Publishing Co. In August, 1957, Cecil F. Chaney was employed as unit superintendent and is still serving in that capacity.

In the spring of 1959, L. E. Smith, principal of Moore High School for the past 12 years, retired. Smith began his teaching career in 1928 as a teacher and coach. He took over the duties as principal in 1948 with the formation of the unit district. A very colorful reception was held in his honor after the graduation exercise, at which he delivered the commencement address. A great many of his former students and teachers were present to help in the celebration. Many nice gifts were presented him from the classes, board, faculty, and other groups in commemoration of his 32 years of devoted service to the school system.

Duane Gronau, a teacher in the system, was employed to the principalship of Moore High. In 1959, Eugene Houser was elected as president of the board of education and continues to hold that office.

In the spring of 1961, both Hombaker and Garmon left the system. Eugene Irving was employed as elementary principal of both buildings.

Teachers who have been in the Farmer City School System for more than 10 years are Leo Bray, Mrs. Mary Ceibert, Mrs. Dottie Shaffer, Miss Ruth Schneider, Mrs. Edna Mullins, Mrs. Pauline Amans and Mrs. Catherine Crago.

The present Board of Education is as follows: Eugene Houser, president; Paul E. Durbin, secretary; Maurice Hurley, Paul Franklin, Maurice Howe, Stanley Vance, and George H. Dunn.

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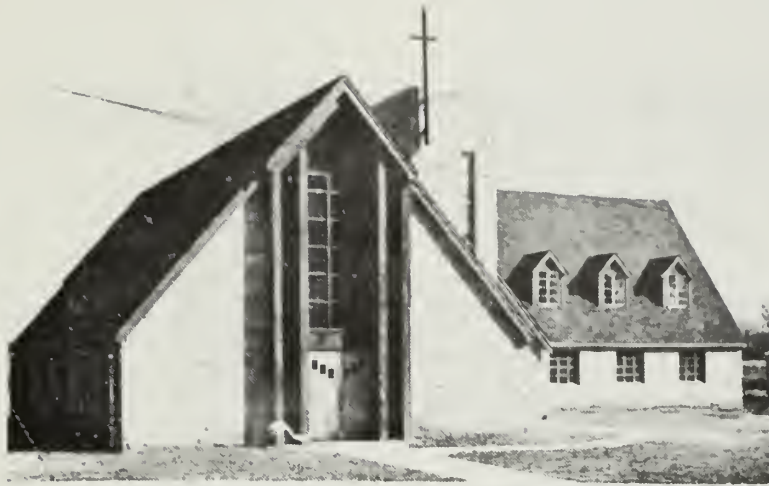
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NAZARENE CHURCH — ONE OF CITY'S NEWEST

CITY OF MANY CHURCHES

HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Farmer City Methodism had its beginning when pioneers from the east built their cabins and settled along Salt Creek, southwest of the present town, in what came to be called Hurley's Grove. In 1832, seven persons, Richard Kirby and wife, Dennis Hurley and wife, Nathan Clearwater and wife and Mrs. Julia McCord, met in the 12x10 foot cabin of Richard Kirby and formed the first "class" in Methodism.

These pioneer Methodists met in each other's homes until 1838 when a log structure was erected. It was also used for a schoolhouse. There were no ministers, but once or twice a year the church was visited by a circuit riding preacher carrying his books in saddlebags. Among these were Peter Cartwright and the Rev. Paxton Cumming who "thundered forth their great gospel messages." The Rev. Cumming settled in the community and was a valuable asset as he was not only a preacher, but a blacksmith as well.

In 1843, a frame church was built just east of what is now Camp Ground Cemetery, which owes its name to the old camp meetings which were held there for about 18 years. From far and near people brought their tents and stayed for the annual 10 day meetings in the early fall. These were great socials as well as soul-stirring religious events.

In 1862 the Rev. C. Arnold and the Rev. B. Bartholow were instrumental in building a new frame church at the foot of Plum Street in front of the City Cemetery in our town, then called Mount Pleasant, and the membership was moved there. Long revival meetings in the late winter were a feature of those days. In 1868, Mount Pleasant was renamed Farmer City and the church was no longer a part of the Clinton circuit, but a "station", one of the charges of the Champaign District. By 1888, the church had its first suggestion of a pipe organ — the old "pipe-attachment" organ that had to be hand-pumped by someone sitting at the side.

The present Methodist Church, one block west of the City Park was erected in 1898-1899 during the pastorate of the Rev. A. S. Flanigan. It is a brick structure with a slate roof and beautiful stained glass windows and cost \$22,000. A pipe organ was installed in 1905.

Through the years repairs and improvements

have been made. In 1938, major repairs were made inside and out, including painting and interior decorations. The parsonage, which had been purchased from B. F. Garver and was first used by the Rev. T. H. Tull family in 1912, was also remodeled in 1938. The former parsonage was on South Plum Street. On October 30, 1938, all-day homecoming rededication and 40th anniversary services were held. Assisting the local pastor, the Rev. M. S. Swisher, were the Rev. William G. Pulliam, district superintendent; the Rev. A. M. Wells, the Rev. T. H. Tull, the Rev. A. A. White and the Rev. Harmon O. Kelly.

In 1939, the Uniting Conference was held in Kansas City and the three branches of Methodism, the Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Protestant and the Methodist Episcopal South, became one — the Methodist church. The women's organizations within the former churches also became one, to be known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild, a vital arm of the Society. There were 155 charter members in the local society.

During the pastorate of the Rev. E. O. England, the church was completely redecorated and new carpeting was laid in the sanctuary. The dining room was refinished in knotty pine. On Christmas, 1947, the tower chimes given by Benjamin F. Hunter in memory of his wife, Evangeline Gillespie Hunter, first rang out their call to worship. The pictures in the sanctuary, Sallman's "Head of Christ" and Hofmann's "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane," were given by the Rev. and Mrs. E. O. England. At joyful rededication services on January 18, 1948, guest speakers were District Supt. C. C. Nordling and Bishop J. Ralph Magee.

When it was found that there were structural weaknesses in the church building, the first phase of a major improvement project was undertaken and completed in 1955-1956. This included superstructure and roof repair, tuck-pointing and exterior painting, redecoration of the sanctuary and organ repair at a total cost of \$45,739.14. On June 10, 1956, Dr. and Mrs. Albert A. Belyea were honored at the time of his retirement from the ministry after serving since 1951 in the local church. The beautifully redecorated sanctuary was filled to

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capacity for this occasion both sad and joyous.

In 1959, during the pastorate of the Rev. Francis W. Samuelson, the second phase of church improvement was completed. In order to make more space for a modern education program, the old balcony (familiar to old-timers) was torn out and a second floor built in what was the old Sunday School room. New stairways were built and the kitchen completely remodeled. The total cost of this phase was \$47,747.

In order to help raise money for these projects the choirs, under the sponsorship of Mrs. O. B. Pace, presented a minstrel show in March, 1955, a "Gay Nineties Revue" in December, 1955, and "Gay Nineties Backfire" in November, 1958. The church also had food tents at a John Deere Day and the Farm Progress Show in 1957.

On July 14, 1957, the new prayer room, formerly the northeast vestibule, was dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Earl O. England. The picture of the head of Christ in the prayer room is the one given to the church by the Rev. and Mrs. England. Mrs. England was present for the service. The prayer room was sponsored and arranged by Mrs. Paul Massock.

The presentation of the "Messiah" by the choirs during the Christmas season has become an event eagerly anticipated by the church and community since its inauguration in 1957.

The educational program of the church has been carried on by dedicated workers in church school, in the annual winter School of Missions, and in the organizations of the church. These include the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Wesleyan Service Guild, Junior and Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Methodist Men's Club which was organized in 1958-1959. Two adult church school classes have been organized in recent years, the Christian Builders and the Pairs and Spares.

Through the years, many faithful members have been lost because of death or removal, but new members have been received making the present membership 688.

The parsonage family since 1961 has been the Rev. and Mrs. David P. Dees and their children, Mary and Rebekah.

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart parish was formed about 100 years ago by a few Catholic families who use to meet in their homes to hear Mass. The Franciscan Fathers from St. Marys parish in Bloomington came to take care of their needs. As time went on, many more families moved here and built a frame church in 1882. Some of the families were the Brennans, Quinlins, Horans, Clearys, O'Mallies, Tobins, Mearas, Condons, Maloneys, Trenkles, Yeagles, Howards, Kennedys, Dwyers, Cliffords, Morrisseys, Gehagans and several others.

By 1899, Sacred Heart was an out-mission of Gibson and Father Cannon served the parish. Through his interesting efforts and many sacrifices on the part of the parishioners the present brick, Gothic Church was built. At the time that Father Cannon was serving the Catholic people of Farmer City, the Rev. Gunn was pastor of the Christian Church and the Rev. Schuet of the Methodist. At some community gathering all three were asked to speak. Father Cannon happened to be last and began his speech — "You have heard the Gunn Schuet and now you will hear the Cannon roar."

The Rev. M. J. Abbott became the first resident priest in 1901 and died 18 months later. The Rev. W. P. White followed him and during his five years here built the present rectory for \$5,000. Pastors following him were the Revs. J. W. Armstrong, Beno Blasche, J. M. Fitzgerald, J. V. Greene, F. J. Schaaf, F. J. Faulstich, R. A. Schueth and the pres-

ent pastor, the Rev. Thomas Carmody, who has built an addition to the rectory and just recently redecorated the church extensively.

Sacred Heart parish is thankful and proud of six parishoners who have dedicated their lives especially to the service of God. Three priests and three nuns. The Priests are the Rev. E. S. Dunn (deceased), the Rev. C. Clifford and the Rev. Richard Mullen; the nuns are Sister Virginia (Mary Yeagle), Sister Marie James (Josephine Morrissey) and Sister Pauline (Margaret Grady).

The parish has now grown to about 150 families.

NAZARENE CHURCH

When the Rev. L. C. Brown and his family came to Farmer City in 1930 it marked the beginning of our present day Nazarene Church. He organized the membership with a small group of faithful followers. The years traveled from 1930 to 1962 and brought many changes and certainly the realization that "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform".

At the time of the founding, the building located on the corner of Allen and William Sts., owned and formerly used by the Spiritualist Society, was acquired, and the members worshipped there until moving into the new edifice located in the Elmore Addition to Farmer City.

The Rev. Brown served as pastor until September, 1934. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. B. Johnson who remained until 1936. Subsequent ministers were the Revs. J. O. Hoke, Fay Fouse, R. A. Noaks and Martha Whistler.

As with many a church congregation, there were struggles that seemed, at times, to be unsurmountable, but with God's leading and the wise direction from the ministry the members rallied wholeheartedly and under unforeseen circumstances conquered.

By 1946, the church growth created the demand for expansion. Under the leadership of the Rev. Chester Linton, the structure was raised, and a basement added which was used for a Junior Church Auditorium and two large classrooms.

The Rev. Sam McKay began his pastorate in the fall of 1950 and during the following years plans began to form and a site was obtained for the present church building. Most of the labor was donated by members of the congregation and friends of the church.

The first services were held August 16, 1960. Further work of erection have been completed since the dedication service was held.

The present pastor is the Rev. Paul Wankel.

PROGRESS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

Twenty-seven years after the establishment of the city, a group of 25 persons organized the Christian Church of Farmer City. They, under the ministry of the Rev. Dudley Downs moved into the first building, which was located on the site of Phipps Department Store. In 1886, as business began to boom along main street, it was deemed necessary to move the location of the church to the corner of Lincoln and Market. The building was remodeled in 1902 and remained much the same until destroyed by fire in 1932. Within 6 months the building now occupying the site was completed.

The Rev. Fred Harrold was called to the ministry of the church in 1935. He continued to serve as minister until February, 1955. Under his leadership many improvements were made. The floors of the auditorium and endeavor room were sanded and refinished. New pews were purchased and installed. The auditorium was extensively redecorated and cathedral glass was put in the windows. Three new classrooms were built and put on the south end of the church, the pulpit area was remodeled and several hundred dollars work was done in the basement.

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The Rev. Gerald Smith was called following the Rev. Harrold's resignation. He began his service in February, 1955. For a time, the only living quarters available were rented, thus it was deemed necessary to secure a parsonage. A parsonage fund was established in March, 1955, and by December of that year, there was a total of \$2,800. In March, 1956, a new 3-bedroom home located on West Indiana Street was purchased by the church. To secure the property a loan of \$8,000 was secured at the bank.

Increased missionary giving was achieved during 1956 with 10 per cent of the income set aside for missions. The Rev. Smith resigned August 5, 1957, that he might establish a new church in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Rev. Eugene Reynolds was called by First Christian, beginning his pastorate in October, 1957. During the period of his service, two young members of the congregation, Richard Sprague and Leslie Parker, Jr. were ordained to the ministry. The Rev. Reynolds resigned in 1959 to accept a call to Summum, Ill.

The congregation was without a minister until June 1, 1960. At that time, the Rev. Ed H. Armstrong was called, who is serving as minister at this time. The past two years have been marked by many notable achievements. The sanctuary has been completely redecorated, a nursery has been added complete with sound system and separate rest room facilities, and a two car garage constructed at the parsonage. It is with a great deal of pride and thankfulness that it can be written that both parsonage and garage were freed from debt in May, 1962. Attendance at all services has shown a marked increase. The church at this time has a membership of 225 and Bible School enrollment is 160.

In addition to Richard Sprague and Leslie Parker, Jr., other who have entered full time Christian service are C. N. Johnson, together with his wife, Mary Grimes Johnson, and they are serving the church at Wanatah, Indiana; Allen Meredith, Duane Gross, Mrs. Albert Nelson (Lela Martin) and Mrs. Lucille Harrold, wife of Fred Harrold, the former Lucille Dill of Farmer City.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Elder James D. Turpin moved his family into the Farmer City area in 1921. They lived on the Tom Wisegarver farm. In 1922, the Turpin family moved into Farmer City. Elder Turpin taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his family in the home.

In the late 1930's the Redman Hall (now American Legion Hall) was rented and services were held there. The I.O.O.F. Hall was rented in the early 1940's. Services were presided over and conducted by full time missionaries.

The church purchased the Van Deventer home on West Market Street for a meeting place in 1942. It was dedicated May 14, 1943, as a chapel by Apostle George Albert Smith. While meeting in this Chapel in 1946, the Farmer City Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized as an independent branch with Elder Heber Dale Turpin as the branch president. Due to the shortage of housing after World War II, the church sold all houses that were used as chapels.

A new home was found for the branch in the Parnell school. It was sold after a few months of occupancy.

In 1949, the branch moved to the Knights of Pythias Hall where the services were held until October 30, 1960.

President Heber Dale Turpin was killed in a plane crash April 15, 1951.

Elder Charles H. Beery was called to be branch president May 6, 1951.

Elder Allen H. Flint was called to be branch

president November 18, 1956.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints purchased a building site in the Herriek Estate addition to the City of Farmer City. A ground breaking ceremony for the building of a new chapel was held August 29, 1959. The first meeting was held in the new chapel on East Allen Street October 30, 1960.

An open house was held June 18, 1961.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

A Southern Baptist minister, the Rev. Wm. F. Hedges, moved his family to Farmer City and began teaching industrial arts at Moore High School. Mrs. Hedges commuted daily to Dewitt to teach in the elementary school there. They soon learned the nearest Southern Baptist Church was about 30 miles away. With great determination and persistence, they aroused the interest of the Rev. Ben Starwalt, Lerna, Ill., who was the area missionary, of the great opportunity for Southern Baptist work in this pioneer territory.

On June 28, 1957, a tent was set up on the Stensel lot east of the Public Library. The following day, he began a 2 week meeting with three assistants, Robert Thompson, Mary Jane Whorton and Ruby Gerhart. These helpers were college students devoting their summer vacations to home mission work.

A daily vacation Bible school was conducted in the tent each morning, Monday through Friday. By the end of the two weeks meetings, many misplaced Baptists had been brought together and expressed a desire to have a church in Farmer City. Sunday services were held in the IOOF Hall, with mid-week prayer meetings in the homes.

On Aug. 31, 1947, following a basket dinner at the fair grounds, the First Baptist Church was organized with 26 charter members.

In October, 1947, a lot and property at the southwest corner of the intersection of Lincoln and Allen Sts. was purchased. The residence converted into a church, where the first services were held Dec. 14, 1947.

Jan. 3, 1948, the Rev. Hedges was called as pastor. Feb. 22, 1949, ground breaking services for a new church and the work was begun immediately with Byron Miles in charge. Most of the work was done by members of the church. Dec. 18, 1949, the first services were held in the new building. On Jan. 15, 1950, dedication services were held for the new church.

During the summer and fall of 1951, the old church was torn down for a parsonage site. Feb. 11, 1952, the Rev. Kenneth Blankenship began a 15 minute Gospel broadcast over radio station WHOW, Clinton, Ill. Monday through Friday which continued for nine months. Feb. 18, 1952, excavation began for the parsonage basement. This building was completed December 12, 1952.

In September, 1961, more property was purchased.

Five pastors have served the church: the Rev. William F. Hedges, Kenneth Blankenship, Bernard Deakins, Paul G. Pinkham and Dale Clemens.

The membership is currently 202.

BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Bethel Christian Church was organized at Elmwood School house in Blue Ridge Township, Piatt County, in 1877. The church building was dedicated on Jan. 4, 1880. With a growing congregation, a north wing was added to the church in 1910. Four years later, a full basement was added to accommodate the Sunday School, and in 1912 a parsonage was built across the road from the church. In 1931, the name was changed to Bethel Congregational Christian Church.

The Bethel Sunday School, which was the de-

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termining factor in the organization of the church, has increased its ministry throughout the years. Florence Galaway, in 1928, saw the need of concentrated Bible study at which time she organized the Bethel Daily Vacation Bible School with Glenna Mosgrove writing the lesson material since no printed material was available. For the past 25 years, a capable staff of more than 20 have conducted Bible School yearly with a record attendance of 125.

A newly organized Sunday School class called the Jolly Neighbors saw the need of providing a social outlet for its members. Mrs. Kathryn Niklaus was the first chairman of this organization in 1939.

Bethel Church, since its beginning, has had an active musical program including a choir. Mrs. Glenna Mosgrove has been choir director for the past 34 years. In 1938, the Rev. Levi Carter organized the Community Sing-Joy, a monthly Sunday evening song service with Mansfield, Farmer City, Weedman Methodist Churches and Prairie Chapel (Evangelical United Brethren).

The Rev. Fredrick Held organized Bethel Boy Scout Troop No. 154 in 1941. March 19, 1962, Richard Cox ended 17 years as scoutmaster of this troop.

Recreational facilities, combination basketball, tennis and volleyball court and a croquet court, were added to the church in 1947. For approximately 15 years, Bethel had a team in the inter-church basketball league. At present, organized tennis instruction has been given to the young people.

For the preparation of the church rededication program, the church was redecorated, installing stained glass windows, new chancel furniture and new pews. For the occasion, Mrs. Glenn James Mosgrove wrote the history of the church in the book entitled, "The Bethel Congregational Christian Church — Its History and Its People 1877-1948." Recently a public address system with ear phones was installed in the church with extension speakers in the nursery.

The pastors of the past 25 years have been Robert Kern, Rufus E. Emmert, Frederick Held, Dr. Albert E. Cook, Levi Carter, Kenneth Kramer, John Crutcher, Robert Shoemaker and the present pastor, Paul Kangas.

The Women's Fellowship, Young People's, Sunday School and the church has increased its missionary program with missionary interest and support in Africa, South America, Japan, Korea, as well as several home mission projects. Since 1937, the missionary budget has increased 2,400 per cent.

A new electronic organ was placed in the church in 1959, and last year a new piano was installed.

Bethel Church has been active in the Holy Week and Thanksgiving Services since the beginning.

The Lord has blessed the dedicated Bible witness in the Bethel community for almost 90 years.

CHURCH OF GOD

The denomination known as the "Church of God" is the latest one of the six religious sects in Farmer City. Consisting of a group of 10 members, it was organized February, 1954, by the Rev. Daniel Gregory, with Carl Bray Jr., J. T. Riggs and Daniel Gregory, trustees.

Meetings were held in the home of Abraham Wilson for a short while, while plans were created for a church building. Lots on North Plum Street were purchased from Lyle C. Morgan and a large tent was set up in which services were held while the present church building was being erected on adjoining premises during the summer of 1954, at a cost of \$8,000. Much of the labor was donated.

In the fall of the same year, the sanctuary was completed and regular weekly services have been observed Sunday morning, Sunday night and Thursday night since that time. The formal dedication of the church did not take place until 1956 when all indebtedness was cancelled and the burning of the notes was evidenced by the congregation. The membership now numbers 20. The record attendance at Sunday School 77. The Young Peoples' Endeavor which meets on Thursday nights reports a record attendance of 72.

Farmer City was chosen as the most desirable place to build the Church of God as those who were interested lived in Clinton, Mansfield and Bellflower and a central location most appropriate.

In April, 1961, living quarters for the pastor were added to the church structure. The Rev. Larry Petty, serving the congregation as pastor, is a student at the University of Illinois. Headquarters of the Church of God is located in Cleveland, Tenn.

HISTORY OF WEEDMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The people of the Weedman neighborhood in 1879 felt that there should be a church in the community, the nearest churches being in Bellflower, Farmer City and Lindsay Chapel. At first the plan was for a "Union" Church to be built, but the plan was changed when one man offered to double his pledge for a church if it would be a Methodist Episcopal Church. Construction was begun in the latter part of July and completed in October, 1879. On October 26, the church was dedicated and a Methodist Society was formed consisting of 14 or 15 members who moved their memberships from other charges to Weedman. The cost of the original church was \$1,152. Today in 1962, there are 168 members and the church is valued at over \$15,000.

In 1926, the congregation at Lindsay Chapel became so small that it was decided to unite with the Weedman Church.

Pastors who have served Weedman Church through the years have been the Revs. James, Joseph Long, M. A. Hewes, Hooper, Thornton Clark, M. E. Pomfret, Peter Wallace, F. C. Reid, H. S. Tyron, J. F. Humphrey, H. B. Montgomery, B. F. Thrasher, R. B. Hubbard, S. M. Vancleve, A. E. Adams, B. E. Williams, A. J. Ives, W. M. Gooding, R. S. Eggleston, W. F. Powell, H. L. Thrall, Lewis Campbell, A. A. Heinline, V. P. Mitchell, Philip C. Dermond, S. M. Ingmire, L. B. VanWinkle, A. M. Willey, W. F. Russell, F. W. Samuelson, Thomas Hendricks, Paul Flower (lay supply), Carlos Dunagan, Arthur Rostron, Benjamin Anderson, Edgar Lillpop, Robert Hennessee, Howard Redding and Ronald Bogart (the present pastor).

DATES TO REMEMBER

In the annals of Farmer City, two of the very important dates worthy of note are 1837 and 1937, the founding of the city and the 100th birthday celebration. The centennial, was in every sense, a brilliant success. The beautiful floats were symbolic and evidenced countless hours to assemble. The spectacular pageant was a delight to all. Eleven epochs dramatized by 400 local citizens, portrayed the events and customs of pioneer days. Farmer City's Centennial was, without question, the biggest and best amateur performance ever staged to that date. It can only be equaled or surpassed by the 125th celebration now in production because of the advancement made in Farmer City during the past 25 years. With up-to-date properties, appropriate clothing, additional features and capable directors, 1962 is most likely to become a memorable date.

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ORGANIZATIONS -- Fun, Philanthropy and Fellowship

THE GARDEN CLUB — A MATTER OF BEAUTIFICATION

The Farmer City Garden Club was organized on May 6, 1929, when 12 women interested in home and city beautification met at the home of Mrs. Rex Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was elected president and Mrs. Ray Denison, secretary.

Projects during the years have included plantings at the Franklin School, the Public Library, the Weedman and City parks, Highway 150 entrance and petunias at rural mail boxes. In 1956, the club received a \$25 award from the Garden Club of Illinois for the development of the roadside picnic area on Highway 150 near the fairgrounds entrance.

The club also has a junior project in which elementary school children are given seeds, bulbs or plants to grow at home. A Junior Flower Show in September culminates the project. The past two years the club has sponsored an Arbor Day project in which hundreds of pin oak and sweet gum seedlings were bought and planted by school children.

The local club which now has 35 members, is affiliated with the Garden Club of Illinois, Inc., and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. The president is Mrs. Don Thurber and the secretary is Miss Adeline Holmes.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

The history of Odd Fellowship goes away back, in fact the name of Mt. Pleasant was given to the lodge when it was instituted in 1858. The first officers are not known, but Joseph T. North was perhaps the outstanding worker, having held offices in the home lodge and the Grand Lodge for many years. The Odd Fellows relinquished their charter in 1958 and joined forces with the LeRoy Lodge.

Iantha Rebekah Lodge No. 413 was instituted in 1895 with 35 charter members. Dora L. North probably was the first Noble Grand and served ably in the Grand Lodge as president and other high offices. Mrs. Belle Walden was a member of the state executive board and Mrs. Kate Horr was appointed state chaplain in 1910. The Rebekahs have met in the Odd Fellow's Hall until the Odd Fellow's disbanded a few years ago. Now the Rebekahs meet regularly in the K.P. Hall. Marie Forbes is serving as noble grand and Ethel Swiney as secretary.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

The Modern Woodmen Of America was one of the most active lodges in Farmer City at one time, combining life insurance with lodge membership and good fellowship. They received their charter in 1886. Seth Burford was the first clerk and when he retired, Sam Mitchell served as clerk for 44 years. This lodge disbanded a number of years ago.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Forest Camp No. 461, Royal Neighbors of America (a fraternal life insurance society), was instituted in Farmer City, April 18, 1896, with 52 charter members. Mrs. F. E. Houser, who resides at Millikin Home, Decatur, Ill., is believed to be the only one left of that group. Camp No. 361 with 35 members consolidated with Camp No. 172, Clinton, Ill., in 1961. The last officers were Mrs. Flora Jones, oracle; Della Doggett, recorder, and Myrtle Mitchell, receiver.

SANTA ANNA HOME BUREAU

On Nov. 12, 1935, with more than 300 women present, DeWitt County Home Bureau was organized. Miss Mable Bushnell was the first home adviser employed by the organization.

In January, 1936, a unit was formed in Farmer City, with Mrs. Dean Lowman as their chairman. There are 40 members at the present time with Mrs. Charles Fogal now serving as their chairman.

Mrs. Vernelle Walden, Mrs. Fred Swigart, Mrs. Herman Jack and Mrs. C. E. Simpson have been county presidents from this area.

Town and Area is the name of a newly organized unit of 21 young homemakers. Mrs. Joe Murphy was their first chairman and Mrs. Wilmer Amacher is the current chairman.

CIVIC LITERARY and CULTURAL CLUBS OF FARMER CITY

The "Philomathia" Club was probably the oldest Literary Club, but no records are available.

The History Club was organized in 1897, was federated with the 19th District in 1902 with a membership of 108. In 1915, the club was organized into departments with different meeting times. The Literary, Civic, American Home, and for several years music and art and Bible study departments were featured. In 1934, when the club federated with General Federation, the name was changed from "History Club" to "Farmer City Woman's Club." It was with deep regret that the ladies decided to disband in 1956.

The American Home Club which now meets regularly is a carry-over from that department of the Farmer City Woman's Club. June Simpson is their chairman and Myrtle Jack is secretary.

The Shakespeare Club, a closed membership literary club, was founded in 1892 and still meets regularly with an active membership of 25. Frances Dunn and Minnie Murphy have served as the president and secretary this year.

There are numerous sewing clubs, bridge, canasta and buncos clubs that add greatly to the social life of the community.

JAYCEES ADD A NEW LOOK

The Farmer City Jaycees were chartered in February, 1961. The organization represents a two-fold purpose; community development and leadership training.

A flower-box campaign was promoted by the club in the spring of 1961. Practically every business house in Farmer City responded to the idea by placing attractive and varied containers filled with growing flowers in front of the stores. It was a pleasing addition and received enough favorable comment to warrant repetition by the Jaycees this season.

As a 1961 pre-Holiday project, the Jaycees re-activated a town custom that had been discontinued for several years, "Christmas Lighting Contest", which encouraged many homeowners to create seasonal displays. Twenty-six entries were received which made it difficult for the judges to select the six winners.

An innovation, and a most worthy one, a stand-ard of Jaycee Clubs, was the "Children's Christmas Shopping Tour." A "white elephant auction sale" was held November 25 to raise funds for the less-fortunate children, providing them with money to purchase gifts for others. \$155 was collected from the sale and 29 children were escorted on the shopping tour by Jaycee members. The club has an enrollment of 33 members who deserve praise for their keen interest in community development. Officers serving since February, 1961 are Don Taylor, president, and Jim Tobin, secretary.

DeWITT COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The DeWitt County Farm Bureau was organized Feb. 12, 1918, in Clinton, Ill. The first president was Smith Wisegarver, followed in order by Claude

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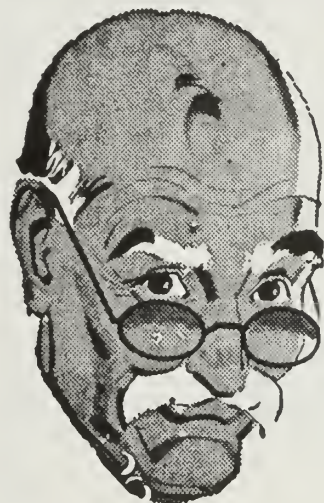
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This organization was formed in general to promote agriculture and in particular to help farmers to a higher standard of living.

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Membership as of this year, 1962, stands at 1,414 members. The present officers are Paul Ives, president; Lester Oakley, vice-president; Ray Otto, secretary, and Russell Anderson, treasurer.

FRATERNAL GROUPS HAVE PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT, GOOD COMRADESHIP

The first lodge, Masonic Orders No. 224, was chartered in Mt. Pleasant in 1856 and became defunct in 1870. The present Farmer City Lodge, No. 710 A.F. & A.M. was chartered in 1876. The lodge home burned in the fire of 1879. The present building was erected immediately following the fire. The new front was installed in 1925 and extensive remodeling, carpeting and redecorating was done in 1960. W. C. McMurray was the first worshipful master. Robert E. N. Hieronymus is the present worshipful master and Ralph Moreland is the secretary.

The Royal Arch Masons were chartered in 1873. They have been very active. Entertaining their "ladies" at dinner and with an interesting program has become an annual custom with them. Jack Hughes is serving as high priest and Floyd Burton as secretary.

Louie Chapter No. 155, Order of the Eastern Star, was chartered in 1890. Martha McIntyre was the first worthy matron and Sam Garver was worthy patron. This organization has met regularly in the Masonic Hall and the present worthy matron and worthy patron are Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Drake, Virginia Herrick is secretary.

Kenilworth Lodge, No. 60, Knights of Pythias, was issued a charter in May, 1875. Chris Garver was perhaps the first chancellor commander. The original charter was burned in the great fire of 1879. First lodge meetings were held with the Masons, later in the Odd Fellows Hall, where the Grand Army post was located.

The present Castle Hall was built in 1893. Charles W. Bates served 49 years as Keeper of Records and Seal. Fred Reynolds is the present chancellor commander and Rex Jackson is the Keeper of Records and Seal.

Their annual "Family Nights" with "Feeds", have been very enjoyable.

The Pythian Sisters received their charter in 1894. They have been a very active organization during the years. Regular meetings have been held in the K.P. Hall. Frances Peters and Chloe McKinley are the most excellent chief and the secretary this year.

WCTU — CONSCIENCE FOR TEMPERANCE

Earliest record of the Women's Christian Temperance Union places its formation in Farmer City in October, 1938. The group was organized in the home of Mrs. George McIntyre. Active in the organization was Mrs. Cora Fields, Clinton, county president at that time. Mrs. Fields was quite active in the WCTU, but suffered from failing sight which necessitated a trip to Clinton by the Rev. Fred Harrold to bring her to the meeting. Mrs. W. B. O'Neal, Champaign, a field worker, joined with Mrs. Fields in the first meeting.

Named president of the unit then was Mrs. Pearl Smith with Mrs. Miriam Fifield, secretary, and Mrs. Mary Lowman, treasurer. Current officers are Mrs. Roy Wright, Sr., president; Mrs. Ralph Kuykendall, secretary, and Mrs. Alvin Brownlee, treasurer.

Through the years many of the members have been county officers. Currently serving in county capacities are Mrs. Paul Massock, Mrs. Earl Shafter, Mrs. Mattie Grimes, Mrs. Lucille Harrold and Mrs. Wright. There are about 50 members in the unit now.

THE KIWANIS CLUB — COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Kiwanis Club of Farmer City received its charter Oct. 6, 1936. There were 25 charter members. The first directors were M. T. Collier, J. R. Bateman, Carl Monen, the Rev. F. J. Schaaf, the Rev. L. P. Bear, W. P. Massock and Carl Derr.

The first president and secretary were Dr. O. W. E. Nowlin and Harlow Stensel, respectively. The present president and secretary are Atty. Robert Gammage and Willard Thomas. Lott Howe served as Lt. Governor of the Illinois-Iowa District in 1951. Mrs. Georgia Hull has served as pianist through the years.

In 1937, the Kiwanians sponsored the Union Sunrise Easter Service which has become an annual custom thereby aiding the churches in their spiritual aims.

The club sponsors the Boy Scouts. They sponsored the "Saturday Night Drawings" which have been continued by the Booster's Club and then the Chamber of Commerce to the present time. Kiwanis was responsible for the erection of signals at dangerous intersections. Each October, the Kiwanians and their ladies welcome and become acquainted with the teachers of our schools.

The Farmer City Club and the LeRoy Club observe Joint Charter Night each year, as the two clubs were organized in 1937. At this dinner, the ladies of Kiwanis are also guests. The Kiwanis Club has been a force for good of the community and now has a membership of 40. Their motto is "We Build."

WOODLAWN COUNTRY CLUB

The Woodlawn Country Club really got its start in a meeting held in what is now Dr. C. M. Duff's dental office. There had been a good deal of talk, but at this meeting, which was on March 17, 1922, H. L. Williams, frequently called upon to act as pallbearer, said he would be glad to have some place to take his friends besides the cemetery and why not start a country club. The organization was started and the temporary officers were C. E. Huddleston, chairman; H. L. Williams, vice chairman; E. R. Rinehart, secretary, and George M. Kincaid, treasurer. They afterwards became permanent officers. The plan was \$5 down; a note for \$45 due Feb. 15, 1923, without interest; \$50 due February 15, 1924, with interest at 7 per cent from February 15, 1923, and one for \$50 due February 15, 1925 with interest at 7 per cent from February 15, 1923. The membership was limited to 140. Thirty-seven signed at the first meeting.

An option was taken on the 31 acres owned by H. L. Bracken and was purchased at \$12,500. The first committees were:

To seed grounds — J. B. Fuller, S. M. Swartz, A. Trenkle, Wayne Herrick and Wallie Weedman. Commission on expert to lay out course — J. R. Eppstein, B. F. Garver, M. B. Kincaid, L. A. Thomassen and J. B. Porterfield. Commission on constitution and by-laws — L. G. Herrick, A. M. Hender, G. W. Watson, L. W. Railsback and H. L. Swartz.

The 25 acres north of the Bracken land was purchased from the Huddleston Estate for \$3,750.

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While the present course was being prepared, a miniature course of nine holes was laid out from the present No. 3 tee west with crossing the pond twice. There was a cottage located near the present No. 2 tee where Scoot Wence operated a snack bar and was a very popular place especially when it rained.

A concrete block ice house was located on the bank of the pond and this was torn down by the members and the material used to build the present dining hall at a cost of \$4,500.

The only living original shareholders are Rex Jackson, Ray Lohmeyer, J. B. Moore, LaVen Newton French, O. B. Pace, Mabel Rawlings, Walter Reeser, J. B. Rinehart, E. R. Rinehart, Frank Roberts, H. R. Savage, Welby Shere, H. M. Stensel, C. C. Swartz, H. L. Swartz, L. A. Thomassen, Grover W. Watson, F. L. Weedman, Frank Williams, Harry Williams, Dr. H. T. Clarno, M. T. Collier, Lloyd Elmore, J. R. Eppstein, H. C. Gring, D. L. Hallowell, Wirt Herrick and Wayne Herrick, but only O. B. Pace, E. R. Rinehart, H. M. Stensel, R. C. Swartz and H. R. Savage are active members now.

Stanley Albert is now president, Dr. C. M. Duff is the secretary and Mrs. Claudia Stoughton, treasurer. The other members of the board are O. A. Peithman, Frank McIntyre, Tom McConkey and Chandler Brown.

AMERICAN LEGION

Joe Williams Post 55, American Legion, has been an active veteran organization in Farmer City since 1919. In that year, the post was organized and Wirt Herrick elected its first commander. The charter was signed by the national commander in January, 1921, and by the department (state) commander in January, 1922.

The Post was named after Pvt. Joseph Williams, the first local casualty in World War I. Pvt. Williams was wounded in action in France Oct. 4, 1918, and died of his wounds Oct. 9, 1918. His body was returned to this country and interred in McCord Cemetery in June, 1921.

Civic activities of the post include presenting Memorial Day ceremonies at the City Cemetery, sponsoring a local boy at Boys' State, presenting colors at civic functions, presenting flags to schools and public buildings, giving Christmas treats to local children, donating to state and national child welfare projects, donating to worthy local civic projects, presenting school medal awards to an outstanding boy and girl graduate of grade school, and on several occasions sponsoring a Junior League baseball team. The local Post was instrumental in starting the Little League baseball movement in Farmer City.

Prior to 1945, the Post held its meetings in a room above the City Hall. In 1945, Redmen Hall was purchased by contributions from local businesses and the general public and given to the post as a "home" of their own in which to welcome the boys returning from World War II.

Other than Wirt Herrick, the following members have held the office of commander in the post:

Russell Huddleston, Roy Rock, W. D. Herrick, Nelson K. Tull, Lafayette Cox, Earl Patterson, M. Nye, H. T. Clarno, G. S. Severson, Lott H. Walton, Edwin Eppstein, M. T. Collier, Robert Sharp, W. P. Massock, E. S. Wightman, Harold M. Walker, Duane Crum, H. M. Stensel, Willard Renkle, Bert Carr, William G. Randall, Myrl Reeser, Edward Beggs, Leo T. Peck, Robert J. Wilson, William Pilkenton, Mervin Gardner, P. A. Silbiss, Robert Jackson, Robert Williams, George Golden, G. E. Johnston, James Cadle, Ray Tarr, George T. Hollon, Charles L. Brown, Claude Stimler and O. W. Reinke.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Joe Williams Unit 55, American Legion Auxiliary, was first organized and received its Charter Aug. 22, 1925, with the first president elected, as near as memory can recall, being Mrs. Ruth Carr. The unit disbanded and was later re-organized on Jan. 13, 1941, with 22 charter members, some of whom are now deceased. The first president of the Unit in 1941 was Mrs. Maude Scott.

The unit now has a membership of 99. The present president of the unit is Mrs. Sadie Reinke. Her officers are Mrs. Maxine Williams, first vice-president; Mrs. Mamie Stimler, second vice-president; Mrs. Vera Mabis, historian; Mrs. Cora Stimler, chaplain; Mrs. Marie Bowman, secretary; Mrs. Daisy Kent, treasurer, and Mrs. Helen Yarman, sergeant-at-arms.

The auxiliary is active in rehabilitation, Americanism, community service, child welfare and poppy sales to mention a few. The local Unit 55 also maintains the Clothes Closet up over the City Hall where the needy of the community may come for clothing and also loans wheel chairs, beds, walker and bedside table to those who need them.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS — THE PTA

The Parent Teacher Assn. was organized in Farmer City by Mrs. Lyle Herrick during the second decade of the 20th century. She served as president and was succeeded by Mrs. Harry Williams. This proved a false start, however, because the association was disbanded due to lack of enthusiasm on the part of the school administration.

The first meeting of the present Farmer City PTA was held March 29, 1935, at the Moore Township High School. Mrs. R. R. McCarty was elected the first president.

Since that time, the association, which is now officially known as the Farmer City Community Unit Parent Teacher Assn., has been in integral part of the relationship between parents, teachers and community.

It has as its objects the same fine ideals subscribed to by PTA's across the nation: to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child; and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Over the years, the PTA has served the Farmer City schools and community in many ways. Outstanding guest speakers, local talent and active group discussion on pertinent subjects have been featured at the monthly meetings held September through May, excepting December.

During the '30s, it was the practice of the PTA to purchase things for the schools they might not otherwise have. The grand piano, which is in the high school auditorium, was purchased by the PTA with funds earned at a food stand the members operated at the Farmer City Fair one summer. More recently, it has become the practice of the local PTA to award two or three \$100 scholarships each year to good students who are planning to prepare themselves as teachers during their college careers. The latest financial project of the Farmer City PTA is a sizeable contribution to the fund for a foreign exchange student coming to the community.

Since its inception, the Farmer City PTA, with a membership as high as 500, has had many citizens

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give of their time and energy to lead the association as president: Mrs. R. R. McCarty, Mrs. W. P. Massock, Mrs. Bert Vance, Mrs. Lyle Morgan, Mrs. Cappy Swartz, Mrs. Harold Wheeler, Mrs. Arthur Bates, Lowell Smith, Rex Minnie, Roger Reeder, Clarence Simpson, Mrs. Wilfred Nowlin and Lloyd Rodman. In 1953, it became the practice to elect a couple to serve as co-presidents. They have been Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Eubank, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gamme, who are presently serving.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC and WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

Lemon Post Grand Army of the Republic, was

organized soon after the close of the Civil War by the "Boys in Blue" whose lives were spared in the great conflict, though some came home maimed for life. Others paid with their lives and were buried on battle grounds. Until only a few members of Lemon Post survived, they continued faithfully in patriotic effort. In order to further promote the principles for which they stood, a group of 20 loyal women formed an auxiliary and were granted a charter from the National Woman's Relief Corps Jan. 12, 1885, as Lemon Corps No. 21. Throughout the years the organization has been active in supporting patriotism and supplying assistance to the needy. The current officers are Mrs. Odetta Cook, president; Mrs. Bertha Rollins, senior vice president; Mrs. Ruby Ratliff, secretary, and Mrs. Hattie Covey, treasurer.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The present Chamber of Commerce is an outgrowth of the former "Boosters Club." This club was organized about 1937 to help promote Farmer City as a business community. Some of the original boosters who helped start the club were John Kendall, Art Lowman, Phil Rous, M. T. Collier and Rex Jackson. One of the early ideas of this club was to sponsor a drawing each Saturday night.

Money, or script, as it was called, was given if you were present when your name was called. This was redeemable in any store for merchandise. This drawing is still held every Saturday night.

About four years ago, the club voted to join the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and the name was changed to Farmer City Chamber of Commerce. At present, there are 75 members.

PARKS IN FARMER CITY

CITY PARK

The first plot of ground designated for a park was donated to the Town of Mt. Pleasant in 1837 by Nathan and Polly Clearwater, early and permanent settlers. They erected the first house in Mount Pleasant. For many years, the park was enclosed by hitching racks, a convenience for farmers and town folk while they were "trading" on Main Street. A large watering trough stood in the center of the west boundary line. With the passing years, city officials have provided needed care to the park's appearance. Concrete walks were built and benches supplied. A large stone, honoring Nathan and Polly Clearwater, is at the south entrance. On account of disease it has been necessary to remove 20 trees. A variety of replacements were planted. Weekly band concerts have been held in the park for many years. In 1961, the wooden band stand was considered unsafe and a 40x60 concrete platform was built for use as a band stand and skating rink.

WEEDMAN PARK

Weedman Park was donated to the City of Farmer City by the Weedman heirs in 1892. It has been the scene of many picnics, family reunions and various entertainment. For a number of years, it was utilized as a tourist camp. Under the supervision of a citizens' committee, composed of June Gottlieb, Helen Oberlink and Kay Clarno, playground equipment was purchased by the city in 1956. It consisted of six 10-foot swings, one eight-foot slide, one merry-go-round, one primary castle walk, three nursery swings and two benches.

BALL PARK

On November 4, 1957, the City Council passed an ordinance to purchase land adjoining Weedman Park from Allison Yeagle to provide a ball diamond for the Little League Baseball Club. It has been used for that sport each season and is appreciated by the boys and the public.



CITY PARK AS FARMER CITY SET UP MCKINLEY CANNON IN 1913

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CEMETERIES

CITY CEMETERY

Ground for the City Cemetery and Methodist Episcopal Church was donated by William McKinley April 7, 1856. The first M. E. Church in Farmer City was built here in 1863.

For many years, the plot was woefully neglected; the only care given was on some individual lots. Grass and weeds were permitted to grow high, broken tree limbs were scattered about and grave markers toppled. In the early 1900's two citizens, Mrs. Jefferson Wetzel and Mrs. F. P. Sangster assumed the responsibility of having the cemetery's appearance improved. They canvassed the townspeople for funds. The project was well received and resulted in a thorough clean-up process. From that time, the City gave more attention to caring for the grounds. Cemetery committees have been appointed each year and a custodian employed.

No fee was ever made for burial lots in the original McKinley transfer. Alec Whitaker owned a strip of land adjoining the McKinley ground on the east which he platted in lots and sold. The two sections were known as the "Old Part" and the "New Part." The oldest date in the City Cemetery is 1799 which appears on the monument of Richard D. Webb as his birthdate.

Decoration Day programs, sponsored by patriotic organizations, have long been held in the City Cemetery, assembling around a large granite monument in memory of "Unknown Soldiers and Sailors."

MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Maple Grove Cemetery Association was deeded the land on which it now stands on Nov. 11, 1895, by George A. and Martha Wheeler. The land had been surveyed and the lots platted the preceding month. The original directors were George A. Wheeler, Charles E. Wheeler, Frank L. Wheeler, Lewis Shreve and Martha Wheeler.

The first person buried in the cemetery was a seven month old baby girl, Mary Marie White, who was buried there Aug. 17, 1895, even before the cemetery officially opened. After the first burial, many bodies were moved into the cemetery. From that time on, it has been actively used as a cemetery.

At the time this article was written, there were 1,965 graves in the Maple Grove Cemetery. Many of Farmer City's more illustrious citizens are buried there. Tom Johnson, who had carried mail from the depot to the post office downtown for many years, died and was buried there in 1936. The cemetery is also the resting place of many of Farmer City's War Veterans.

Maple Grove has many beautiful tombstones in it. They range from the starkly simple lines that are always popular, to many ornate and complicated ones. There is one made in the shape of a chair, several tree trunks, and others of all shapes, shades and color. They range in cost from nothing at all to \$10,000 for a single stone.

There have been many changes in management over the years. The work at the cemetery was first managed by George A. Wheeler. Frank L. Wheeler and George L. Wheeler took over the management after the death of their father. They continued to work at the cemetery until George L. Wheeler died and Frank lost his health. After that, Frank's sons, Otto, Harold and Carl, managed the work of the cemetery until after their father's death and the reorganization of the cemetery association in 1950.

After the reorganization in 1950, Harold Wheeler became manager, a position he held until March of 1960. At that time, he resigned to accept a full-time position at Moore Township High School. The

management of the cemetery was then turned over to Alva R. Scarbrough, who holds this position today.

Many improvements have been made over the years. Only recently new mowers have been added, more efficient tools of all kinds, a new sign to help those from out of town, and many other things. Many of these improvements have been paid for by the interest paid the cemetery on the perpetual care money taken on many of the lots. The cemetery association is now planning the widening of the drives and the plotting of new lots in the future.

The present directors of the association are Alva R. Scarbrough, Pearl Wheeler Scarbrough, Ida Mae Thomas, Cora Stimler and Dean Scarbrough.

GREENLEAF CEMETERY

Ground for Greenleaf Cemetery was given by Thomas A. and Mary A. McLain on April 2, 1866. A United Brethren Church, one which later burned, was built on the five acre plot. First trustees of the cemetery were Samuel Johnson, Preston Jones and William P. Riggs, great-grandfather of Claude Walker, one of today's trustees, along with Robert Lewis and Harold Hillman.



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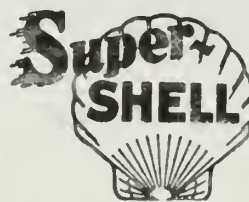
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OIL CO.**

Established 1923



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LUBRICATING
OILS

FARM and HOME DELIVERIES

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Weldon, Ill.

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MARATHON SERVICE

our specialty . . .

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DUMP TRUCK SERVICE

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125th BIRTHDAY

WELDON CO-OP. GRAIN CO.

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WOODY'S BARBER SHOP

208 Main St.

*"We Need Your Head
In Our Business"*

WOODS BEAUTY SHOP

Ph. 6024

219 Main St.

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FARMER CITY...

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DOWNTOWN CHAMPAIGN

★ CLOTHING ★

- MEN
- BOYS
- LADIES

This Year Marks Our 10th ANNIVERSARY

They Have Been Good Years With The
Help Of FARMER CITY People Who
Recommend Us As Cordial Hosts . . .

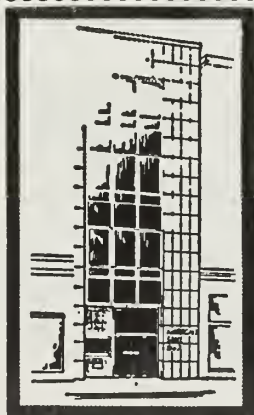
MAY WE ENJOY MANY MORE
PROMISING YEARS TOGETHER . . .

Elmortel Motel

FARMER CITY, ILL.

the **WRIGHTS** owners

RAY and PHYLLIS TARTER, mgrs.



Congratulations to our neighbor city upon her 125th Birthday.

May she have health, wealth, happiness and

Many Happy Returns . . .

EAST SIDE OF SQUARE — IN THE HEART OF BLOOMINGTON'S
MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SHOPPING DISTRICT

AMERICAN STATE BANK

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FARMER CITY BUSINESSES TODAY

A & B HATCHERY

George and Eugene Hoffman purchased the poultry and feeds business January 1, 1947 from R. E. Augustus who had established the hatchery business here in December, 1929.

The Hoffmans have one employee.

ALEXANDER LUMBER COMPANY

Being purchased near the turn of the century from the Robison Lumber Co., the Alexander Lumber Co. is one of the oldest local firms. They provide a large selection of building materials. There are two employees. Chester Eden is the manager.

DR. WILMER L. AMACHER

Farmer City has one chiropractic office. It is owned and operated by Dr. Wilmer L. Amacher, D.C., chiropractic doctor, who came to this city in 1954. He also practices in Clinton.

GREAT ATLANTIC & PACIFIC TEA COMPANY

Morrell D. Crago is manager of the local grocery store which was established here in 1920. Six persons are employed.

BATEMAN OIL COMPANY

Russell Bateman established the business as distributor of fuel oil from bulk plant in 1927. He employs one truck driver to make deliveries.

BEALOR MOBIL SERVICE STATION

Dale Bealor leased the gas and oil service station from the Mobil Oil Co. in November, 1957, and has continued to operate it since that date. The building was erected and equipped for the operation of a service station by Arthur Lowman in 1932.

BIG 'N' DISTRIBUTOR

Mid-South Chemical Co. purchased the business February 1, 1958 from Illinois Anhydrous Ammonia Co. Chandler Brown is the local business manager and Big 'N' distributor. He has one seasonal employee.

THE BLOSSOM SHOP

Mrs. Doris M. Barrows owns and operates the flower shop. Mr. and Mrs. Barrow purchased the business in 1959 from Lyle Morgan. Two persons are employed.

BON AIRE INN

W. T. Rick is the owner of the restaurant and tavern which he purchased in July, 1957 from Irish Moore. Moore had established the business in May, 1952.

Rick has three employees.

BROWNLEE WELDING SHOP

Alvin G. Brownlee established a complete welding service in 1945. The shop is located at 418 East Water Street and Mr. Brownlee does the work without the aid of employees.

BURTON'S STANDARD SERVICE

The Burton Standard Service is owned by Clifford Burton and is a gasoline and service station. Burton bought the present business in 1955, although a station had been located here since 1953. It has four employees.

C & L CAFE

Charles and Lucy Tharp purchased the restaurant business June 1, 1960 from Elmo Cadle. They have four regular employees.

CANBY FARM SERVICE

Richard S. Canby established a repair shop specializing in farm machinery in 1945 and continued the service until his death April 21, 1962.

THE CARD RACK

Mrs. Lyle C. Morgan established the gift and card store on September 5, 1958. Mrs. Morgan conducts regular lessons in the art of craft and supplies the necessary materials.

CHARLIE'S POOL HALL

Charles Thompson purchased the tavern and pool hall in November, 1959 from Harry Lucas. He has one employee. The first owner was Sherman Merritt, approximately 45 years ago.

CITIES SERVICE STATION

Elbert Jones is day manager for the Cities Service Co., operating as a "Truck Stop", catering to large trucks and transports. The business was originated in 1947 by Carl Wright who sold it to Cities Service Co. in 1956. Six men are employed.

CLARK BROS. MONUMENT COMPANY

Harlow M. Stensel is representative of Clark Bros. Monument Co. in the sale of monuments and vaults. The business was established in 1886 by Hugh M. and C. N. Clark.

Charles D. Rock and son Roy Rock were representatives from about 1916 to April, 1956 when Roy Rock passed away.

COLLIER APPLIANCE COMPANY

R. A. Collier became the owner of the retail store of appliances, gifts, paint and wallpaper from his father Marshall A. Collier who continued the hardware business began originally in 1906 by his father, George A. Collier. The store has three employees.

CORN BOWL, INC.

Original business started by L. R. Murphey in 1935 with a four lane bowling alley in the business district.

In July, 1958 the business became Corn Bowl, Inc. with a new building at a new location with L. R. Murphey, manager.

Employs nine persons to operate the bowling and lunch.

COUNTRY STEAK HOUSE

Mrs. Juanita Heath purchased the restaurant November 1, 1961 from Donald Kirk, who had owned the business for about three years. Four regular employees with the owner.

CULLIGAN SOFT WATER SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Bateman have owned and operated Soft Water Service since August 20, 1947. They purchased the business from Stanley Howe in March, 1946.

They employ one assistant.

LOWMAN TOGGERY

★ MEN'S WEAR ★

"DEPENDABLE SINCE 1935"

FARMER CITY, ILL.

FROM FARMER CITY'S
RAIN BARREL IN 1837,
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE—

NOW, THERE'S



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Phipps Dept. Store

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**quality merchandise
at sensible prices...**

MOORE'S HARDWARE

★ PLUMBING

★ HEATING

★ WATER SYSTEMS

and WELL WORK

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Weldon, Ill.

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GEORGE ELFERS

M. D.

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... A Complete ...

HOME FREEZER SERVICE

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Saybrook, Ill.

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125th BIRTHDAY!

We Are Proud To Have Served Your Community For Over 50 Years With Fine Bedding
— Through Our Local Dealer . . .

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AMCO - ATLAS MATTRESS, INC. — SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

We Manufacture

We Distribute

- ★ SEPTI-SAN for waste disposal
- ★ RAT MURDER
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- ★ AEROSOL HOME INSECTICIDE
- ★ AEROSOL HOUSE
& GARDEN INSECTICIDE
- ★ AEROSOL ANT & ROACH SPRAY
- ★ AEROSOL INSECT REPELLENTS
- ★ AEROSOL ROOM FRESHENERS
- ★ ROACH & WATER BUG TABLETS
- ★ WATERLESS HAND CLEANERS

SEPTI-SAN, Inc.

FARMER CITY, ILL.

Country Charm Dairy

"I want
to be
your
Milkman"

**BOB
MILLER**

Locally Produced
Grade A Milk
"It's Miles Fresher"
"AT YOUR STORE
or
AT YOUR DOOR"

MINNIE DEPT. STORES

DRY GOODS and VARIETY

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"

FARMER CITY

--

SAYBROOK

--

FISHER

CURTIS ELECTRIC

Roger J. Curtis, owner of the Curtis Electric Co., chased the business May 1, 1953 from the Jack Fuller Estate. The original owner, Lee A. McBride, established the business about 1920. The store features electric appliances and television sets. A repair service is also available. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis are assisted by one employee.

DAVIS SIGN and DISPLAY SERVICE

Don Davis established the art and advertising business in September, 1954.

Davis is self-employed and at various times has two employees.

M. D. DAWSON & COMPANY

The General Contractor business was established August 1, 1953 and is owned and operated by Merle and Eileen Dawson, partnership. The employees vary in number from three to 10.

DEWEY'S DRIVE-IN

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Gronau have operated the drive-in refreshment stand since 1955 during the summer months May 1 to October 1.

The business began with a "Swirley-top" stand which operated one season. The Gronaus have added something each year and now sell all kinds of sandwiches, soft drinks and coffee.

DIAMOND HORSESHOE

Bob and Mary Ann McKinley established the package liquor and bar business here in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley are self employed with one other employee.

DO DROP INN

Mrs. Susie Norton purchased the restaurant building April 1, 1956. Joe Price had established the business in 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Norton are self employed and three others assist them.

DOSS PLUMBING & HEATING

Earl Doss established the plumbing and heating business in Farmer City on May 1, 1949. Doss is self-employed with Mrs. Doss as office assistant.

GEORGE H. DUNN IMPLEMENT COMPANY

George H. Dunn purchased the International Harvester, Farm Machinery dealership May 16, 1947 from Robert T. Cord.

The firm has 11 employees.

C. M. DUFF, DENTIST

C. M. Duff, D.D.S., purchased the dentistry business of Dr. C. C. Shafer April 20, 1940. The business had been established some 30 years prior by Dr. I. C. Morrical. Dr. Duff was employed here as a dentist and also had an office in Champaign prior to 1940.

ELMORTEL

Wilfred Wright purchased the Motel business in October, 1955 from Ted Elmore who had established the business in 1952. The Motel is operated by Wright and three employees.

EPPSTEIN SHOES

E. M. Eppstein is owner of the retail shoe store which was purchased by his father, M. D. Eppstein March 1, 1886 from the Cummings Brothers.

There are two employees.

FARMER CITY CHEESE COMPANY

Beatrice Foods Co. purchased the Cheese Company business in 1955 from Kentland Dairies as a receiving station for milk. The Cheese Factory was established here in April, 1934. There are now three employees.

FARMER CITY FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL CO.

The Farmer City Fertilizer and Chemical Co. is a corporation engaged in fertilizer sales. Doing business here since 1959, it now has five employees.

FARMER CITY GRAIN COMPANY

L. E. West purchased the grain elevator in November, 1945 from Earl Murphey, Nels Johnson Estate and Lewis Shreve, who had operated for about 30 years. West formed a corporation January 1, 1955.

There are 14 employees.

FARMER CITY IGA FOODLINER

Jesse S. Hammer and Mervin J. Gardner opened the IGA Foodliner here December 17, 1959. They now have 12 employees. Hammer and Gardner have been partners in the grocery business since 1946. Jesse S. Hammer, Sr., started the grocery store business in 1912 and continued until his death in 1934. Mrs. Hammer was manager of the business from 1934 to 1946.

FARMER CITY JOURNAL

Charles L. Russell purchased the printing and newspaper business November 1, 1961 from the estate of E. S. Wightman.

The weekly newspaper and printing business was established in 1871.

There are seven employees.

FARMER CITY LOCKER PLANT

Fred L. Reynolds purchased the locker plant for slaughtering and curing meat in October, 1959. The business was established in 1938 by the Reesers.

Mr. Reynolds has two employees.

FARMER CITY SALES and SERVICE

Delbert Pointer is the owner and operator of the general repair auto shop, which he established in 1946.

He has four employees.

FARMER CITY STATE BANK

The Farmer City State Bank opened for business November 1, 1941. It has 10 employees.

FARMER CITY STOCK YARDS

Cecil Doss is the owner of the livestock business which was purchased from Freehill Brothers, Melvin, Ill., about 10 years ago.

There are two employees.

FEDERAL-NORTH IOWA GRAIN COMPANY

The grain firm of Gring and McCord leased their grain elevator to Federal-North Iowa Grain Co. of Champaign, Ill. in May, 1959. The original business was established in 1912 when the Cleveland Grain Co. built the first elevator where the present one (erected in 1946) now stands. Federal-North Iowa Grain Co. operates a chain of elevators. Seven people are employed for the local operation.

FISHER EQUIPMENT COMPANY

E. C. Fisher purchased the farm machinery business January 1, 1959 from Wayne Fuller and Jim Fuller. Wayne Fuller established the business about 1935. Three persons are employed.

congratulations

FARMER CITY

125 years young

BLACK'S HARDWARE

**112 W. GREEN
CHAMPAIGN, ILL.**

- HARDWARE ● HOUSEWARES
- WATER SYSTEMS ● ELECTRICAL
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— Free Off Street Parking —

'Your Family Hardware Center'



Bellflower Plant

★ Anhydrous Ammonia

"The Nitrogen for the Farm"

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The CROP-GUIDE SERIES Soil Test

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The ECON-O-MASTER Program
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... for the things
you don't find in your
own home town,

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**Bloomington's
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WE EXTEND OUR

VERY SINCERE

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on your

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A STORE OF FASHION

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

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HOME OF

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WORK and CASUAL CLOTHES

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LUMBER CO.

— COMPLETE LINE OF —

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For Over
One Half Century**

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SALES & SERVICE**

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★ REPAIR SERVICE ★

ON ALL MAKES

CARS and TRUCKS

Official Truck Testing Station B 352

DELBERT POINTER, owner

- DRIVE IN SERVICE
- FREE PARKING AREA

- ★ SIDEWALK WINDOWS
- ★ COMPLETE BANKING SERVICE



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URBANA, ILLINOIS**

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

CORNIE'S SHOE STORE

GIBSON CITY, ILL.

**SHOES for the
entire family . . .**

TJARDES FARMS

★ **Reg. Polled Herefords** ★

Gibson City, Ill.

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SERVICE

LIVESTOCK - LIMESTONE

PHOSPHATE

Commercial Fertilizer

Make One Call For

Complete Trucking Service . . .

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Ill.**

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FARMER CITY

ON YOUR

125th ANNIVERSARY

Hagerty's

PRIME RIB ROOM

MOTEL URBANA

5 POINTS - URBANA, ILL.

SCHLITZ

the Beer with real Gusto . . .

MAURER DISTRIBUTING CO.

DECATUR, ILL.

compliments

OF

Dr. C. M. DUFF

FREDERICKSON FURNITURE STORE

D. A. Frederickson purchased the retail furniture business in 1946 from Hammer & Webb Co. The business was established in 1905. There are three employees.

GAMBLES

Owner of the store is William M. Stratman, who conducts a retail hardware business and also handles gifts, toys, auto accessories and housewares. Stratman bought the business in 1957 from Don Thurber but a Gamble Store had been located in Farmer City since about 1935. The store is family operated with one extra employee. Mr. Stratman came to this city in 1953 and was owner of the Western Auto Store.

GENE'S PAINT and WALLPAPER STORE

Gene Buchanan and Harold Wheeler are co-owners of the paint and wallpaper store which they purchased from Vernell Kent July 1, 1958. They are self employed.

GRIERS' RESTAURANT

John J. Grier Co. leased the building for Food Catering Co. in February, 1959 from Cities Service Oil Co. The restaurant business was established in 1938 by Ernest Meredith.

Griers' have 21 employees.

HARRIS TV SALES and SERVICE

Harris TV Sales and Service is owned by Theo. Harris. Established in 1953, it provides radio and television and repair service. He is self-employed.

HARROLD'S CONOCO

This Conoco Gasoline Station is owned and operated by Cecil Harrold who purchased it in 1949 from Russell Bateman. It was established here in 1936 and has two employees.

HAWN & OVERTON

Francis Hawn and John Overton, partners, purchased the John Deere Farm Equipment business in February, 1952 from W. R. Howe. Webb & Son had established the business in 1948.

There are three employees.

HEADLEE SALES and SERVICE

K. D. Headlee purchased the implement business in February, 1960 from Kimball. The business has five employees.

HENRY'S BARBER SHOP

Earl Henry owns and operates his barber shop on East Green Street. He has been a resident of Farmer City since 1918 and was employed by the late L. S. Bealor's barber shop for 33 years. Mr. Henry has been in the present location since 1955.

HERRICK and GAMMAGE

The law firm of Herrick and Gammage was purchased by Robert Gammage in January, 1961 from Herrick and Rudasill. This law firm stems from the original which was established in 1868 by George W. Herrick. Mr. Gammage has no employee.

HERRING GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Roscoe Herring operates a complete contracting and construction service, dating from 1937. He is assisted in his work by four employees.

HORNSBY'S 5c to \$1.00 STORE, Inc.

Art Hornsby established the store here in 1942. Mrs. Frances Turpin is manager with four other employees.

HUNT'S SERVICE STATION

W. H. Hunt purchased the filling station February 20, 1935 from M. T. Collier.

Mr. Hunt is self-employed and has one regular station attendant.

IMOGENE'S BEAUTY SALON

Mrs. Imogene Williams Kemplin has owned and operated her Beauty Shop since January 8, 1949. She is self-employed.

ISAAC'S GARAGE

John Isaacs established the garage and used car business about 16 years ago. He has one employee.

JACKSON GROCERY

Rex Jackson has owned and operated a grocery store since September 7, 1914. His father purchased the business and the building in 1891 from A. Z. Gony.

The store is the only home-owned grocery in Farmer City and has one employee.

JERRY'S BEAUTY SHOP

Mrs. Wayne Milburn opened the beauty shop in May, 1960. Mrs. Milburn employs two beauty operators to assist her.

KEMPLIN SHELL SERVICE STATION

Fred Kemplin purchased the Service Station from Ed Owens July 7, 1957. The building was erected by Marshall Collier in 1938. Continuously since that date the various owners have leased the building for the operation of gasoline and oil filling stations.

KENDALL THEATRE

The Kendall Theatre, purchased in 1914 from Dave Mitchell by the late John T. and Kitty Kendall continues to be operated by Mrs. Kendall and furnishes movie entertainment for this vicinity. It is family operated.

LAUNDROMAT

William E. Prather installed equipment in the McGrew Building in 1959 for the purpose of a self service laundry. It is open 24 hours daily. In 1961 Mr. Prather added three dryers and eight washers to meet the needs of the patrons. Two custodians are employed.

LEWIS HARDWARE and SKELGAS

In 1934 Robert Lewis owned and operated a radio and refrigerator sales and repair service in the Stensel Building on the west side of the City Park. In 1942 he added Skelgas stoves and service. In 1950 he purchased the hardware store from Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Rous which they had established in 1934. Mr. Lewis is assisted by Mrs. Lewis and one employee.

LOWMAN TOGGERY

Dean Lowman established the Men's Wear business here in 1935. Mr. Lowman is assisted in the store by Mrs. Lowman and his son Dean.

LU FRAN CARD NOOK

In September, 1951, Lucy A. Watson and Frances Griffith converted one room of their home located at 325 South Plum Street into a display of Greeting Cards and novelties, for selling, which they operate together.

CARROLL McCARTNEY PLUMBING & HEATING

Carroll McCartney established plumbing and heating business in 1947. He is self-employed.

GUFFEY'S

FOOD MARKET

GROCERIES and MEATS

DELAND, ILL.

MAXEY MOTORS

308 E. University Champaign, Ill.

★ **R A M B L E R** ★

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ON YOUR

125th Anniversary

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**RESTAURANT and COCKTAIL
LOUNGE**

36 Main St. Champaign, Ill.

CHOICE STEAKS

and CHOPS

**FRESH SEAFOOD
COCKTAILS**

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★ **GRAIN**

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★ **ACETYLENE**

★ **ELECTRIC**

**BROWNLEE
WELDING SHOP**

Highway 54 - East End of Town

PHONE 7292 FARMER CITY, ILL.

Saybrook Grain Co.

GRAIN -- COAL -- FEED

CUSTOM GRINDING and MIXING

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TROPHIES

- Large Selection
- Modern Design
- For All Activities

plus
"24-HOUR ENGRAVING SERVICE"

W. B. READ & CO.

109 N. Main—SPORTING GOODS—Bloomington, Ill.



The History of Farmer City Is A Legend of Progress

Now, as we look confidently
toward the future, we are
proud to have shared
in the past . . .

BOWLING



LUNCH

CORN BOWL, Inc.

420 N. MAIN ST. FARMER CITY, ILL.

CRAFTS and HOBBIES

FOR

YOUNG and OLD

Wood Fibre Flower Craft - Ceramics
Texture Craft Panels - Jewelry
Foam Rubber

JOIN OUR CLASSES FOR
FUN and PROFIT . . .

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★ Diamonds ★ Watches

STERLING by--

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OUR SERVICE WILL PLEASE YOU
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GENERAL AUCTIONEERING
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FARMER CITY

★ HARDWARE ★ SPORTING GOODS
★ HOUSEWARE ★ ELEC. SUPPLIES
★ AUTO SUPPLIES ★ BATTERIES
★ PAINT ★ TOYS ★ WHEEL GOODS
... WE SERVICE BICYCLES ...

1864



1962

KNIGHTS of PYTHIAS

KENILWORTH LODGE No. 60

FARMER CITY, ILL.
MEETS EVERY THURSDAY

Walgreen's

Lowest Prices

DEPENDABLE PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

201 N. NEIL ST. CHAMPAIGN, ILL.
PHONE: 352-4722

CONGRATULATIONS TO FARMER CITY

and the entire community
on its

125th Anniversary

We Are Proud To Have Served This
Community At The Same Location
For 77 Years . . .

EPPSTEIN'S FOOTWEAR

STEVE PARR
HENRY SCHMITZ
ED. EPPSTEIN
FARMER CITY, ILL.

PAXTONS, Inc.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

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NCR ADDING & BOOKKEEPING MACH.

ALL TYPES OFFICE FURNITURE

★ FINE JERSEYS ★

Have Been Here At . . .

MAPLE MEADE FARM

Since 1896

C. Leslie James
MANSFIELD, ILL.

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BEST WISHES

for

ANOTHER 125 YEARS
OF PROGRESS . . .

Community Bank of Mahomet
MAHOMET, ILL.

ALL DEPOSITS FEDERALLY INSURED TO \$10,000

DON McCARTNEY PLUMBING & HEATING

Don McCartney established the plumbing and heating business in March, 1947. He is self-employed.

MCCONKEY MOTOR COMPANY

Tom McConkey has been owner of the Ford and Mercury Car Agency since January, 1958 and the McConkey Body Shop for all makes of cars which was established in 1955.

The Motor Company business was purchased July 1, 1951 by Tom and his father, Bud McConkey who had owned the business with Elsie Alsip. There are 10 employees.

McINTYRE STANDARD SERVICE STATION

Filling station purchased by Frank McIntyre October 1, 1933 from H. C. Derr. Business established in 1921. Employs three attendants.

McKINLEY OIL COMPANY

Bulk plant owned and operated by John McKinley. The business was established in 1940 by Monarca Oil Co. and sold to McKinley in 1950.

McKINLEY RODEO

McKinley Rodeo, owned by "Bob" McKinley, Sr., provides rodeo and wild west entertainment. Established in 1934 as the McKinley and Selby Rodeo, it was purchased by McKinley from Amos Selby in 1944 and has approximately 30 employees. This rodeo shows at about 45 fairs and celebrations each season, from June through September.

MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY

George A. Wheeler, Sr., plotted the acreage south of Farmer City in 1895 for use of burial lots. It is now owned by a corporation and managed by Alva and Pearl Wheeler Scarbrough, who employ one assistant. Mary Marie White, seven months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira B. White was the first interred August 17, 1895.

MASON REXALL DRUGS

Leon Mason has owned the drug store since April 1, 1954. He purchased the business from W. P. Massock who had owned and operated the drug store for about 20 years. There are three regular employees.

MEYERS REPAIR SHOP

Chase Meyers owns and operates this furniture repair and upholstering business. It was operated on Main Street from 1934 until 1953 when sold to the Milburn Brothers. Since then Meyers has conducted the business from his home.

MICHAEL ELECTRIC SERVICE

Clarence Michael is the owner and operator of the electrical contracting and repair business which he established in 1951.

Michael had been employed as electrician in L. A. McBride electric shop since 1936.

MIDDLESTED MUSIC SHOP

Middlested Music Shop, owned by Art Middlested is the city's first music shop, being opened in 1960. Art and his wife Lou, came here in 1942. She has given private music lessons and he taught in the local schools for 18 years. It is family operated.

MINNIE DEPARTMENT STORE

The general merchandise and dry goods store was purchased by Rex Minnie in 1942 from W. P. Loy who established the store here in 1941. Six persons are employed.

MILBURN'S FARM SUPPLY

This business is owned by Fred and Russell Milburn, who do plumbing, heating and pump repair work as well as canvas, shoe repairing and upholstery. They purchased the business in 1953 from Chase Meyers who had conducted it since 1934. They have one employee.

MORGAN DAIRY PRODUCTS

Barney Morgan purchased Sealtest Dairy Products October 1, 1961 from Russell Syputt. The business was established in 1945 by Syputt. Three persons are employed.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS GAS CO.

Northern Illinois Gas Co. provides natural gas for heating and other utilities. Its service in Farmer City began in 1956. Gas bills are payable at Mason's Drug Store.

NOWLIN CLINIC

The Nowlin Clinic was established by Dr. J. A. Nowlin, Osteopathic Physician, August 28, 1928. He was succeeded by his sons, Drs. Owen and Wilfred J. in 1903, who purchased the present building in 1910. George E. Castroville, M.D., purchased the Clinic from the Nowlin family August 1, 1961, after being associated with the Clinic for one year.

PACE REAL ESTATE

O. B. Pace Real Estate is owned and operated by O. B. Pace, real estate broker. The business was established in 1952 and has one employee.

O. A. PEITHMAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Ortheldo A. Peithman began his law practice in Farmer City September 1, 1948. Mrs. Peithman assists him with one other office employee.

PEOPLES' CAFE

The Peoples' Cafe was established in the present location on South Main Street in 1928 by Ora O'Neil. From that date until 1953 it was owned and operated by others. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helmick purchased the restaurant in 1953 from Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Linnig and have employees. All owners have retained the original name "Peoples' Cafe".

PETRY'S PACKAGE LIQUOR STORE

Paul Petry purchased the package liquor store in 1954 from Ronald Savage. He operates the store assisted by members of his family.

PHIPPS DEPARTMENT STORE

Owned by Phipps-Schokey, Inc. and managed by Minnie B. Wells, this store was purchased in 1951 from the Wilson Dry Goods. It is believed the same location was the site of a dry goods store in 1886 and continuously since.

RAKER CLEANERS

Raker Cleaners is owned and operated by Jordan L. Raker of Clinton, who provides dry cleaning and laundry service. The business was established here in 1961 and Nora E. Tobin has charge of the local establishment.

RHODES - EDMISON CHEVROLET COMPANY

The partnership of Rhodes and Edmison purchased the Chevrolet Sales and Service October, 1961 from Lawrence Rust who erected the building and established the business on Highway 54 in 1950. Six persons are employed by Rhodes and Edmison.

ROBERTS INSURANCE COMPANY

The C. A. Roberts Insurance Co. is operated by C. A. Roberts, insurance broker, who bought the business from Carl Nichols in 1952. This Insurance Co., previously the Walter Young Agency, had been in business in Farmer City since the turn of the century. It has one employee.

AMERICA — FARMER CITY

AMERICA AND FARMER CITY HAS COME A LONG WAY . . . FROM THE LOG CABIN TO THE SKYSCRAPER . . . FROM THE COVERED WAGON TO THE JET PLANE . . . FROM THE HAND PLOW TO ATOMIC ENERGY. THE ROAD HAS NEVER BEEN EASY, BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEARLY MARKED . . . ITS MILESTONES, THE BASIC RIGHTS ON WHICH FARMER CITY WAS FOUNDED AND BY WHICH

IT HAS LIVED AND GROWN STRONG. WITH PRIDE WE LOOK BACK AT OUR PAST. WITH CONFIDENCE WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND ALL THAT LIES AHEAD, HOLDING RESOLUTELY TO A WAY OF LIFE SO CRITICALLY TESTED, SO CONCLUSIVELY PROVED . . . WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR FORWARD MARCH TO A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL . . . **THIS IS FARMER CITY . . .**

FREDERICKSON FURNITURE COMPANY

congratulations

TO

FARMER CITY

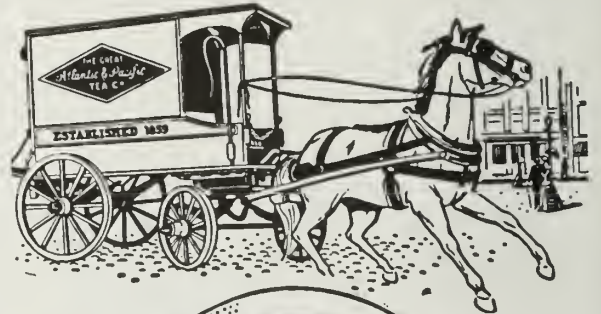
ON

YOUR

125th Anniversary

Village of Weldon

Weldon, Ill.



103 YEAR OLD A&P SALUTES

FARMER CITY

and its

125th Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FARMER CITY

Phipps Dept. Store

ALWAYS FIRST
IN QUALITY . . .

Farmer City, Ill.

congratulations

TO

FARMER CITY . . .

AND ITS

125th ANNIVERSARY

BATEMAN OIL CO.

Telephone 4541

Farmer City, Ill.

compliments

OF

DR. F. R. STOUGHTON

Farmer City, Ill.

JAKE & KATE'S

Phone ST 4-8150

Gibson City, Ill.

FAMOUS
OR
INE
OOD

WM. W. JACOBS, prop.

DELAND

**Farmer's Cooperative
Grain & Lumber Co.**

PHONE 38 -- LUMBER CO.

PHONE 48 -- GRAIN CO.

DELAND, ILL.

HOUSE of BEAUTY

1925

1962

Formerly O. C. Beauty Shoppe

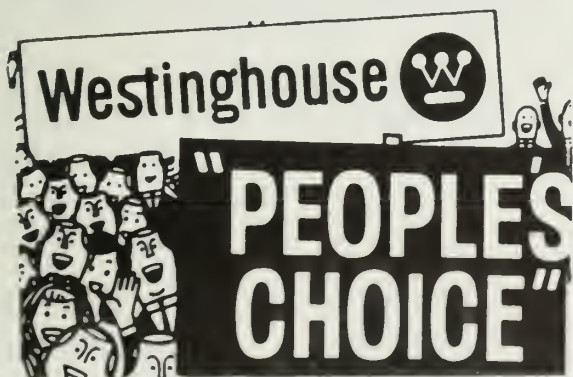
It has been our pleasure to serve the GRAND-
MOTHERS of this area, their DAUGHTERS,
GRAND-DAUGHTERS, and their GREAT-GRAND-
DAUGHTERS during the past 37 years . . .

Golda Flesner and Mildred Vance

Licensed Beauticians

OSEE L. STENSEL

OWNER



RHODES-EDMISON CHEV. CO.

CHEVROLET

SALES and SERVICE

PHONE 2179

Farmer City, Ill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FARMER CITY...

The LU-FRAN CARD NOOK

LUCY A. WATSON--FRANCES GRIFFITH

325 S. Plum St.

Farmer City, Ill.

congratulations

TO

FARMER CITY

MADDEN & TRIGG

INSURANCE

DELAND, ILL.

congratulations

ON YOUR

125th Anniversary

MAY YOUR
COMMUNITY
PROGRESS CONTINUE ...

**DELAND
STATE BANK**

DELAND, ILL.

congratulations

TO

FARMER CITY

It Is Our Pleasure To Furnish
The Diamond Ring As The
Runner-Up Prize In The
Queen Contest

See The Ring On Display
In Our Window

VAUGHN'S JEWELRY

Telephone 5051

Farmer City, Ill.

congratulations

TO

FARMER CITY

ON ITS

125th Anniversary

... A FRIEND ...

We're Just Starting Our First

125 YEARS

In Business

with QUALITY MEATS

**JERRY'S
MEAT MARKET**

LOCATED IN THE A&P STORE

Telephone 5755

Farmer City, Ill.

SCARBROUGHS TRUCKING COMPANY

Alva Scarbrough and son, Dean, operate this trucking company, specializing in livestock trucking and hauling business. It was started in 1935 and is self-employed.

JOHN and DEDRA SELLETT, M.D.'s

John W. Sellett, M.D. and Dedra Sellett, M.D. purchased the office equipment and general practice of Dr. John Ziegler October 9, 1953. Dr. Ziegler established his medical profession in 1904.

SEPTI-SAN, INC.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Thurber began the manufacturing and distribution of rodenticides and insecticides, bacteria and enzymes for waste destruction, in August, 1954. Mr. Thurber employs three to six helpers according to seasonal sales.

SHAFFER'S

Shaffer's Antiques, Trash and Treasures is owned and operated by Fred Shaffer, who buys and sells used furniture and other miscellaneous articles. Established in 1956 the business was operated on Highway 150 until 1959, when it was moved to the present Main St. location. There is one employee.

SHELL MOTOR and MARINE SALES & SERVICE

The Automotive and Marine Sales and Service is owned by L. K. Shell, J. M. Deeters and Genevieve Shell Deeters.

Shell Motor Sales was established in 1939 by William Shell.

Three persons are employed.

SIGN SHOP

J. F. Zumwalt established the sign painting business in 1946. He is self-employed with two employees.

STENSELS' FUNERAL HOME

The firm of funeral directors, now comprised of Harlow M. Stensel, Vernell F. and Lester R. Stensel, was established in 1867 by their grandfather, John Stensel, Sr. After being located for many years on the west side of the City Park, the present building on the east side was purchased in 1928. In 1952 two adjoining buildings were bought and extensive remodeling was accomplished. Associated with the firm are six employees.

DR. F. R. STOUGHTON, DENTIST

F. R. Stoughton, D.D.S. came to Farmer City in 1938, starting practice with the late Dr. A. M. Wilkes. In 1940 he opened a dental establishment of his own. He has one employee.

ROSS C. SWARTZ INSURANCE AGENCY

Miss Daisy Vance purchased the insurance and real estate agency November 1, 1959 from Ross C. Swartz. Mr. Swartz established the business in 1932 and is still in real estate business.

Miss Vance has one office employee.

TARTER COAL COMPANY

Leonard C. Tarter has owned and operated retail coal, general hauling and custom shelling business since April, 1949. He purchased the coal business from Jesse W. Hammer at that time. Golden Barger had started the retail coal business in 1932.

Tarter has two employees.

VAUGHN'S JEWELRY

Jewelry business was purchased by Clarence R. Bloom February 10, 1962 from Vaughn Oberlink who had established the jewelry store in 1950. Four employees.

VOGUE CLEANERS

After leasing dry cleaning equipment and building on Green Street since 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Greer established a complete dry cleaning service in the Augustus Building on Main Street January, 1962. They have one employee.

WALSH GRAIN ELEVATOR

This grain elevator, owned by Robert E. Walsh was purchased from R. M. Kelley in 1945. It has been in business since 1930 and has two employees.

WILLIAMS' PLUMBING AND HEATING

The service of Plumbing and Heating became a part of the Hardware Store established in 1892 by Henry L. Williams. In 1925 Harry W. Williams and Frank Williams purchased the business from the Henry L. Williams Estate. Harry has been selling and installing plumbing and heating units and supplies from his residence since 1945.

WINS' ELECTRIC COMPANY

Wins' Electric, whose owner is Winfield Spiegel, specializes in electrical contracting. The business was opened here in 1957. He is self-employed.

WOODY'S BARBER SHOP

Woodrow Wood purchased the barber shop from L. S. Bealor in 1956 and remained in the same location that had housed a barber shop one door south of the Commercial Hotel since in the 90's. Mr. Wood moved to his present location in 1937. He has no employee.

WOOD'S STYLING SALON

Mrs. Evelyn Wood established the beauty shop here in October, 1956.

Mrs. Wood is self-employed.

WYCKOFF REAL ESTATE

Harlan B. Wyckoff established this real estate service here in 1958. It is self-owned and self-operated.

YOUNG'S BARBER SHOP

Jake Young purchased the shop in 1938 from John Walden. Mr. Young has been a barber in Farmer City since 1929.

Two regular barbers are employed by Young to assist him.

X-RAY LABORATORY and OPTICAL OFFICE

J. Nile Mitchell, optometrist, purchased the business in 1946 from Stuart E. Kelley, O.D., who had established the business May 12, 1910.

Dr. Mitchell has one office assistant.

THE WICKES CORPORATION

The Wickes Corp. lumber yard in Farmer City was opened in 1959 and is one of a series of yards spread throughout most of the nation. They sell lumber, plumbing, electrical and heating supplies to a wide area in central Illinois. Jay Harford is currently manager of the operation that has 12 employees.

FARMER CITY NURSING HOME, INC.

The Farmer City Nursing Home, Inc., owned and operated by Gary and Luella Graves, was opened Aug. 20, 1959. It has a capacity of 22 persons cared for by eight employees in addition to the Graves'.

Parkhills' —

EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE COMMUNITY OF
FARMER CITY

AND YOUR

125th ANNIVERSARY ...

"FROM ONE OLDTIMER TO ANOTHER"

● AIRLINE ●

● MOTOR COACH ●

ESTABLISHED IN 1924, OUR ORGANIZATION NOW PROVIDES CENTRAL ILLINOIS WITH A COMPLETE TRAVEL SERVICE IN GROUP AND INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION ...

● RAILROAD ●

● STEAMSHIP ●

● DOMESTIC and INTERNATIONAL ●

**PARKHILLS
TRAVEL
AGENCY**

**PHONE
359-1675**

**120 S. WALNUT
CHAMPAIGN,
ILLINOIS**

... TRAVEL IS OUR MIDDLE NAME ...

PATRONS OF THE ANNIVERSARY

MR. and MRS. FLOYD KING — FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
ARTHUR MIDDLESTED — FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
M. D. DAWSON & CO. — FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
HARRY WILLIAMS — FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
CHARLIE THOMPSON — FARMER CITY, ILLINOIS
KINSELLA DISTRIBUTING CO. — BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
B & H LOCKER — LEROY, ILLINOIS
VAN MOTOR SALES — LEROY, ILLINOIS
WELDON LUMBER CO. — WELDON, ILLINOIS
KARL PETERSON - FRIGIDAIRE — WELDON, ILLINOIS
BARNEY'S PRODUCE — WELDON, ILLINOIS
RAILSBACK ELEVATOR — WELDON, ILLINOIS
SHINNEMAN KINGSTON INSURANCE — WELDON, ILLINOIS
TRIGG'S DRY GOODS, DELAND, ILLINOIS
NORTON CAFE — DELAND, ILLINOIS
DELAND TRIBUNE — DELAND, ILLINOIS
FOSTER'S STANDARD SERVICE — BELLFLOWER, ILLINOIS
SPRAU'S FERTILIZER SERVICE — BELLFLOWER, ILLINOIS
REATHA'S DINNER BELL INN — BELLFLOWER, ILLINOIS
STEWART AUTO SUPPLY CO. — CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
HENRY HAGER LUMBER CO. — GIBSON CITY, ILLINOIS
CASE'S SANDWICH SHOP — GIBSON CITY, ILLINOIS
JOHNSON MOTOR SERVICE — GIBSON CITY, ILLINOIS
CANNON - BALL — CLINTON, ILLINOIS

FOR THEIR HELP

Some of the people, both in and out of the community, who contributed to celebration include the following to whom the queen committee is indebted for their generosity and cooperation in obtaining the most attractive gifts for the "Miss Anniversary Queen Contest."

Parkhill Travel Agency
"Travel Is Our Middle Name"
Champaign, Ill.
Robeson's Department Store
"The Store of Friendly Service"
Champaign, Ill.
Vaughn's Jewelry Store
"Where Experience and Confidence Counts"
Farmer City, Ill.
Farmer City State Bank
"A Bank You'll Like"
Farmer City, Ill.
Phipps Department Store
"Quality Merchandise at Sensible Prices"
Farmer City, Ill.
Woodlawn Country Club
Farmer City, Ill.

For the use of their facilities
for the queen contest reception.

There are others, of course, who contributed in one way or another. The list, however, would be too long to fully describe.

BUSINESS INNOVATIONS

Business innovations which have been established here in the changing times. Since 1937:

BOWLING

MOTEL

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

EXPORTING OF GRAIN

DRIVE-IN QUICKIE SNACK BAR

"SOFT" ICE CREAM STANDS

EXCLUSIVE WELDING BUSINESS

**MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF RAT AND
MOUSE KILLER POWDER - AEROSOL
INSECTICIDE - ROOM DEODORANTS -
BACTERIA EMZO FOR SEPTIC TANKS**

**CASH AND CARRY LUMBER YARD AND
BUILDING SUPPLY CO.**

SUPER-MARKET GROCERY

**TELEVISION SALES AND REPAIR SHOP
HATCHERIES AND MASS PRODUCTION
OF EGGS**

BOAT SALES AND SERVICE

NURSING HOME

TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE



95 Years

OF SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

by our Grandfather **JOHN STENSEL, Sr.**

We have expanded

and now have 4 Funeral Homes

★ **FARMER CITY**

★ **LEROY**

★ **BELLFLOWER**

★ **MANSFIELD**

THE STENSELS

HARLOW -- VERNELL -- LESTER

THREE FOR THE SERVICE

ON FARMER CITY'S
125th ANNIVERSARY

There Are Three
Agricultural Companies
Providing The Best And
Most Complete Service To
Farm and Community
In The Area . . .



FARMER CITY GRAIN CO.

-- CASH MARKET FOR GRAIN --
-- HIGHEST QUALITY SEED --

FARMER CITY FERTILIZER and CHEMICAL CO.

-- COMPLETE FERTILIZER SERVICE --
-- MODERN SOIL TESTING LABORATORY --

PACIFIC GRAIN CO.

. . . SERVING BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXPORT
MARKETS -- EXPANDING FACILITIES -- GRAIN
SHIPMENTS TO BOTH EUROPE AND THE
ORIENT . . .

★All These Services★
In One Stop . . .

- PREMIUM MARKET FOR CERTAIN VARIETIES OF SOY BEANS.
- CASH MARKET FOR YOUR GRAIN.
- PREMIUM MARKET FOR QUALITY SEED.
- STATE APPROVED SOIL TESTING LABORATORY.
- ALL YOUR FERTILIZER, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL AND SEED NEEDS.
- COMPLETE GRAIN MARKETING FACILITIES, BOTH DOMESTIC AND AND FOREIGN.
- STORAGE AND DRYING FACILITIES.

Farmer City Grain Co.

PACIFIC GRAIN CO. FARMER CITY FERTILIZER
and CHEMICAL CO.

FARMER CITY, ILL.

YOU RECEIVE AT THE FARMER CITY STATE BANK THE PERSONAL CARE, INTEREST AND ATTENTION THAT HAVE DISTINGUISHED THIS BANK THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY . . .

THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK HERE ASSURE YOU THE BEST IN BANKING SERVICE. INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A GROUP THEY CAN GIVE YOUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS SOMETHING EXTRA IN THE WAY OF BANKING . . .

YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE COMPLETE USE OF THE EFFICIENT AND DISTINCTIVE SERVICE AT THIS STRONG, FRIENDLY, HELPFUL BANK . . .

Farmer City State Bank

CAPITAL . . . \$100,000.00

SURPLUS . . . \$200,000.00

RESERVE . . . \$100,000.00

-- OFFICERS --

LOTT C. HOWE
President

RICHARD K. DRAKE
Executive Vice President and Trust Officer

DEAN BRIGHT
Vice President and Cashier

EDWARD M. VANCE
Vice President

WANDA BURTON
Assistant Cashier

PHEBE GALAWAY
Assistant Cashier

DIANE KING
Teller

JANIS MAXWELL
Teller

LOIS A. ADAMS
Bookkeeper

JOELINE ARMSTRONG
Bookkeeper

PAUL RUTHERFORD
Building Custodian

-- DIRECTORS --

DEAN BRIGHT

GEORGE E. DRAKE

RICHARD K. DRAKE

ROBERT E. DRAKE

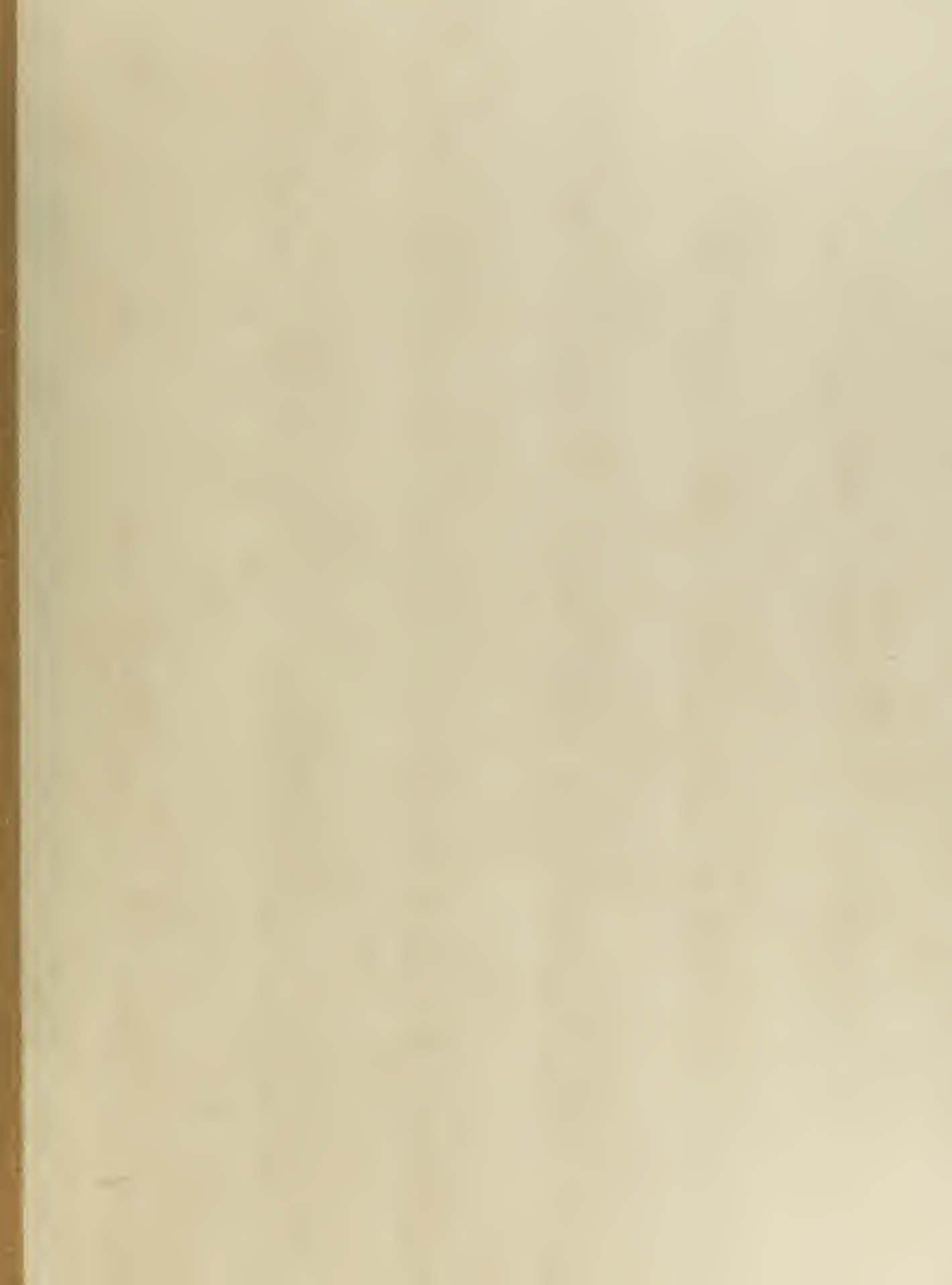
D. A. FREDERICKSON

LOTT C. HOWE

BERYL W. RUTLEDGE

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
977 358F22S C001
SIX SCORE AND FIVE FARMER CITY



3 0112 025393783